

HALIFAX

metro

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Scotiabank Hockey Day in Halifax

Celebration of Canada's Game starts Wednesday. [PAGE 2](#)



'AMAZING, AMAZING STORIES'

Jourdin Symonds, station manager for GotAVoiceRadio, in studio at the mic on Tuesday. The Internet radio station, headquartered on Gottingen Street, is looking to draw more attention to its broadcasts, which first became a fixture on the airwaves in December. For coverage, see page 4. **JEFF HARPER/METRO**

NHL skating into town

Hockey. Islanders, Hurricane to face off in exhibition play Sept. 26

 **HALEY RYAN**
haley.ryan@metronews.ca

Tickets

Tickets range from \$84 to \$104 including tax, and go on sale this Friday at 10 a.m. through Ticket Atlantic.

Trade Centre Ltd. and John Graham of On Ice Management.

The Islanders are one of the up-and-coming teams in the NHL, led by Tavares. Carolina's lineup includes Eric Staal, Jordan Staal and defenceman Justin Faulk.

"They're a young team, they're an exciting team. Go back and look at the Olympics — Tavares. Look at the world juniors — Tavares," Graham told reporters of New York.

The Islanders last played in Halifax in 2008. It will be the Hurricanes' first appearance.

Ferguson said this will also be the first major hockey event at the newly named Scotiabank Centre, and fans might feel as if they're walking into a new arena in September with 10,000 new seats, expanded concession area and booths, and bathrooms will be in place.

As news broke Tuesday about an NHL game in Halifax this September between the Carolina Hurricanes and New York Islanders, many wondered if star forward John Tavares would be on Scotiabank Centre ice.

Islanders general manager Garth Snow made no promises.

"We don't make our lineups until the days leading up to the games," Snow said via conference call for the announcement Tuesday in Halifax.

"If you look at our track record of pre-season games in Canada, we usually for the most part put our (best) team on the ice," Snow added.

Snow and Hurricanes general manager Ron Francis called in to speak about the Sept. 26 game with Scott Ferguson of



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Hockey Day events 'real celebration' for Halifax

Sports. Clinics, NHL stars, Stanley Cup sightings going across region until Saturday



HALEY
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Hockey fever hits Halifax over the next few days as NHL alumni, TV personalities and the Stanley Cup descend on the city — but for one Olympian, it's really a "celebration of the community."

Scotiabank Hockey Day in Canada lands in Halifax for the first time ever Wednesday, with events and clinics going on until Saturday, when Ron MacLean will host various televised NHL games live from the Emery Oval.

"It's a real celebration of the community and what it's done for the game," former

Quoted

"We like to go out and have a good time and just be with people."

Cassie Campbell-Pascall

Team Canada captain and three-time Olympic medallist Cassie Campbell-Pascall said Tuesday.

Campbell-Pascall said she has been participating in Hockey Day in Canada events since 2006 and loves the grassroots community aspect that shows "what the game truly is about" and working with minor hockey players.

"It's about having fun and ... celebrating teammates and how important that aspect is not just in hockey but I think in everyone's life," Campbell-Pascall said.

"It seems kind of all warm and fuzzy, and I think sometimes we need to be."



Cassie Campbell-Pascall, left, and Kim St-Pierre of Canada hold Canadian flags and celebrate their 4-1 victory over Sweden to win the gold medal in women's hockey during the 2006 Winter Olympic Games in Turin, Italy. Hockey fever hits Halifax over the next few days as NHL alumni, TV personalities including Campbell-Pascall and the Stanley Cup all descend on the city. BRIAN BAHR/GETTY IMAGES

Her favourites: getting out on the ice with girls' teams and the Hot Stove event, in which kids can speak up and talk to NHL alumni.

"They ask the best questions," she said with a laugh.

Gordon Brost, Scotiabank vice-president for southwest

Nova Scotia, said the events create a bond with hockey teams around the province.

"It's really an experience that will continue to resonate in their minds for a long time," he said.

The events touch other aspects of life for the person who

is not a sports fan, Campbell-Pascall said, such as the novelty of a big concert, speeches and national exposure.

"Showcase your spirit for Halifax, get out and enjoy it and be proud of it, kind of pump your chest on national television, if you will," she said.

Schedule

Line-up of events for Hockey Day in Canada

Wednesday:

- Opening ceremony, shinny game with NHL alumni, Halifax Forum, 6 to 8:30 p.m. Free.

Thursday:

- Free skate with the Stanley Cup and NHL alumni, Halifax Forum, 7 to 9 a.m.

- Stanley Cup at Ross Road Elementary and Junior High in Cole Harbour, 10 to 11 a.m., and Ash Lee Jefferson Elementary School in Fall River, 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- On-ice hockey clinic with Cassie Campbell-Pascall and Mark Napier, Halifax Forum, 2 to 3 p.m.
- Scotiabank Kids Hot Stove event, 4 to 7 p.m. at Scotiabank main branch.
- Scotiabank "Stolen

From A Hockey Card Concert" with the Barra MacNeils, Buck 65, Rich Aucoin and Theo Fleury, 7:30 to 10 p.m., Spatz Theatre.

Friday:

- Stanley Cup at Elizabeth Sutherland in Spryfield, 9:15 to 10 a.m., Park West in Clayton Park, 10 to 11 a.m.
- Celebrity luncheon, including Don Cherry,

11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Cunard Centre.

- Hockey clinics and Stanley Cup, Cole Harbour Place, 4 to 5 p.m. Scotia 1: Darcy Tucker, Guy Carbonneau and Wendel Clark. Scotia 2: Mark Napier, Cassie Campbell-Pascall, Lanny McDonald.

Saturday:

- Scotiabank Community Hockeyfest with Mark Napier, Darcy Tucker, Cassie Campbell-Pascall and Lanny McDonald,

12 to 2:30 p.m., Scotiabank Centre.

- Ron MacLean broadcasts live from the Emery Oval on multiple NHL games all day. The Scotiabank Community Locker at the Oval with free popcorn, interactive games, BBQ and giveaways. NHL alumni will be on site as well as "Be A Sportscaster" interactive trailer, shinny, Valentine's jersey skate and clinics. 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

HALEY RYAN/METRO

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Crime. Car clocked going 226 km/h on highway

A man from Nova Scotia could be stuck with a fine worth more than \$2,000 after he was caught driving 126 kilometres an hour over the speed limit Monday morning, RCMP say.

RCMP officers with the traffic services unit were conducting routine traffic enforcement on Highway 104 near the Telford area between New Glasgow and Antigonish when they saw a car travelling way over the speed limit on Monday around 5:30 a.m.

Officers' radar clocked the vehicle going at 226 km/h in a 100 km/h zone, despite the fact road conditions were slippery, with patches of ice and snow in some areas due to flurries.

"It's unbelievable," said RCMP spokesman Cpl. Mark Kellock on Tuesday, explaining that given the icy road conditions, he's never

By the numbers

7

The man's licence was automatically suspended for seven days. If convicted, he faces a fine of \$2,418.95.

known a driver to take a gamble quite like that before.

He called the situation "an accident waiting to happen," saying that even when roads are dry that level of speed is dangerous.

A 28-year-old man from Sydney driving a Chevrolet Malibu — a rental vehicle — was stopped and charged with stunt driving. His rental vehicle was then towed and impounded for seven days.

"He didn't think he was going that fast," Kellock said, explaining the man told officers he was running late.

STEPHANIE TAYLOR/METRO

Weather. 'Significant snowfall' coming Friday

The recent break from any significant snowfall in the city appears to be short-lived.

A special weather statement has been issued by Environment Canada for all of Nova Scotia, including Halifax, about the potential for "significant snowfall" on Friday.

Environment Canada says a low-pressure system is forecast to develop off the East Coast of the United States Thursday and then hit the Maritimes Thursday night into Friday.

"Current indications suggest a potential for significant snowfall and possible

Previously

Our last big winter storm came Feb. 5 when we received more than 20 centimetres.

winter-storm conditions for Nova Scotia on Friday," the weather statement reads.

Environment Canada isn't predicting snowfall amounts as of yet.

The Weather Network has Halifax getting 15 to 20 centimetres of snow on Friday.

METRO



Premier Stephen McNeil isn't ruling out wage reductions for members of the Nova Scotia legislature as the province tightens its belt. JEFF HARPER/METRO FILE

MLAs face prospect of pay cuts, premier says

Budget deliberations.

But civil servants need not worry about wages, says McNeil

The possibility of pay cuts for Nova Scotia politicians is part of deliberations for the spring budget, Premier Stephen McNeil said Tuesday.

"We are looking at the entire fiscal envelope," said McNeil. "As we build our budget, we will look at all options."

But McNeil said civil servants will not see their wages reduced, adding that the government is in contract negoti-

Report

A panel report released last April in Nova Scotia did not recommend any changes to salaries for members nor top-ups given to party leaders and the premier.

ations with several bargaining units and not looking at any salary rollbacks.

"I made a commitment that I will be looking for a wage pattern that I can afford to pay on a go-forward basis, but I will not be retroactively going back on civil servants," he said.

On Monday, New Brunswick Premier Brian Gallant said he and members of his cabinet will have their ministerial salaries reduced as of April 1 until the province's books are balanced.

That move will see Gallant's salary fall to \$152,150 from \$164,000. Cabinet ministers will have their earnings drop to \$132,253 from \$137,614.

Gallant's announcement was followed by a call from Nova Scotia's Progressive Conservative Leader Jamie Baillie for McNeil to follow suit.

The Opposition leader said a pay reduction for members of the Nova Scotia legislature

is in order at a time when the public is being warned of tough fiscal measures ahead to bring down the deficit, which is forecast to be \$220.6 million this fiscal year.

"He's the one asking every other Nova Scotian to tighten their belt," Baillie said. "I believe in the principle that we should all be in this together."

Members of the Nova Scotia legislature receive a base salary of \$89,235.

The premier makes an additional indemnity of \$112,791, bringing his salary to \$202,026, while cabinet ministers receive an additional indemnity of \$49,047.

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North-End Halifax youth have voices heard, on air

Community. New Internet radio station continues to uncover 'amazing stories' after getting its start at Gottingen 250 Festival

 **STEPHANIE TAYLOR**
stephanie.taylor@metronews.ca

What began as a week-long project has transformed into what some in Halifax's North End are saying means "everything" to their community.

Jourdin Symonds is the station manager at GotAVoiceRadio — a new Internet radio station produced at Centreline Studios, located in one of the upper rooms at the Uniacke Centre for Community Development along Gottingen Street.

Standing in the small one-room studio, next to a desk with a laptop, sound mixing board and lone microphone, the 23-year-old explains the idea for creating a community radio station.

It was meant to be a place where local volunteers, particularly teens, could record personal stories from different people in the neighbourhood, intended as a one-off project for the Gottingen 250 Festival last September.

However, it seemed they

Next steps

The Internet radio station will broadcast for one year before iMOVE considers applying for a permanent spot on FM radio.

- "We're kind of playing it by ear and seeing what the community wants," Charlene Gagnon said.

were onto something bigger than anyone could have imagined.

"It seems like ever since I started doing this, my life has been like a little bit more positive," Symonds explained Tuesday, saying he's watched a number of the young people involved find more direction in their lives, including making decisions to finish high school and pursue broadcasting.

"It basically lets our voices be heard worldwide," he said.

On Thursday evening, the radio station will officially launch with a party at The Bus Stop Theatre in the hopes of raising money to purchase more equipment.

Charlene Gagnon is director of operations at iMOVE (In My Own Voice), the organization heading up the project, and said after the initial broadcast, the community was just blown away



Jourdin Symonds, station manager for GotAVoiceRadio, edits a playlist in the studio on Tuesday. JEFF HARPER/METRO

to hear their own stories told in their own voices.

"It was very meaningful to both the people who participated, but also the people who tuned in who were interested in learning more about the North End," she said.

"Amazing, amazing stories."

Last December the program was moved online, streaming on a 24-7 basis "to test out the bugs," she explained, adding that close to 500 hours of interviews have been recorded.

Listeners can hear everything from local music to interviews with different members of the area's nonprofits, such as a nutritionist from the North End Community Health Centre and a co-ordinator from CeaseFire to discuss violence, she said.

For example, people tuning in Tuesday morning could listen to four black teens talk about issues of stereotyping.

"It was all very raw and real," Gagnon said.

Health-care group wants province to stop charging ambulance fees

A patient advocacy group in Nova Scotia is calling on the province to eliminate all ambulance fees, which they believe will save more than \$9 million per year and lead to longer-term savings.

The Nova Scotia Citizens' Health Care Network says that currently one in four Atlantic Canadians are deterred by the high cost of ambulance rides, which negatively impacts their health care.

The group's advocacy around ambulance fees comes in the wake of an investigation by CBC's Market-

Cost
\$142

An ambulance ride in Nova Scotia costs \$142 per trip.

place, which found that 19 per cent of Canadians are dissuaded from calling ambulances due to their cost.

In a release issued Tuesday, the group reports that the province's Emergency Health Services billed patients \$12.2 million for 141,000 ambu-



EHS workers walk in front of a new ambulance after a press conference in 2013. HALEY RYAN/METRO

lance trips in 2013-14, when they expected to collect only \$9.7 million.

They explained that every year, the agency estimates 20 per cent of bills will go unpaid, and last year waived \$575,000 in fees for low-income patients and spent around \$856,000 to offset the cost for nursing-home residents and those with limited mobility.

The provincial co-ordinator of the health network said that eliminating ambulance fees altogether would mean bigger savings than the subsidies and low-income waivers currently offered.

METRO

Police. Cabinet minister alleges Mountie made inappropriate comment

Nova Scotia RCMP say a member of the force is being investigated after a complaint was received from a provincial cabinet minister.

Sgt. Al LeBlanc says police got a call Monday from Community Services Minister Joanne Bernard alleging that a Mountie made an inappropriate comment to her and a member of her staff during a phone conversation at her constituency office.

LeBlanc wouldn't reveal details about the comment or the officer allegedly involved, but says the Mounties have

launched an internal investigation.

Bernard issued a statement saying she had concern with the conduct of an individual who contacted her office and identified themselves as a member of the RCMP.

She says she then contacted police.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

On the web

For more local news, go to metronews.ca.





The Christopher Stannix ferry was unveiled last year. JEFF HARPER/METRO

New ferry to be named after fallen soldier

Craig Blake. Name chosen after 11,000 votes cast in contest

 HALEY RYAN
haley.ryan@metronews.ca

The city's newest ferry will bear the name of a local man killed in the line of duty.

On Tuesday, the city announced Craig Blake was chosen as the name for the new ferry, after 11,000 votes were cast in a contest over a two-week period in January.

Petty Officer Second Class Craig Blake was the first Canadian sailor to be killed in the line of duty in Afghanistan, according to a release. He belonged to an elite navy group, based at the Fleet Diving Unit Atlantic in Halifax, that specializes in neutralizing bombs.

More than 500 names were submitted last fall during the first phase of the contest, which was then narrowed down to six finalists by a selection committee.

The other finalists were:

Vincent Coleman: The hero who sacrificed his own life to

Christopher Stannix

In 2013, a ferry was named Christopher Stannix, after the Cole Harbour resident and soldier who was killed in Afghanistan in 2007.



Petty Officer Second Class Craig Blake
CONTRIBUTED

warn thousands of people to flee from the Halifax Explosion.

Walter Fitzgerald: A long-time educator and former mayor of Halifax.

Ruth Goldbloom: Co-founded the Pier 21 Society that eventually established the Pier 21 immigration museum.

Maxine Tynes: African Nova Scotian writer who has written about the discrimination faced by residents of Africville.

Raymond Taavel: A well-respected LGBTQ activist and former chair of Halifax Pride. He was murdered in 2012.

Halifax Transit will soon submit the vessel name, Craig Blake, to Transport Canada for approval as the name of the newest ferry, set to go into service this summer.

The new boat replaces an existing ferry, and HRM said a celebration is planned closer to the ferry's start date.

NOTICE OF PURCHASE

PID 40247439, PID 40247447, PID 40247454

Necum Teuch, Halifax County

TAKE NOTICE that on January 12, 2015 the following Certificate of Purchase Document 106463756 was registered at the land registry:

Certificate of Purchase

This certifies that on July 30, 2014 land at Necum Teuch, Halifax County, Nova Scotia and more particularly described in this Certificate vested absolutely in Her Majesty the Queen in right of the Province of Nova Scotia, pursuant to Section 135 of Chapter 18 of the Statutes of Nova Scotia 1998, the *Municipal Government Act*. Legal description, assessment number/municipal tax number, property identification number (PID) and compiled plan number for the land are shown below. The land described in this Certificate will cease to vest in Her Majesty if:

- (i) on application made before January 30, 2016, a person proves to the satisfaction of the Minister of Natural Resources or a judge of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia on appeal from the Minister of Natural Resources that the person owns the land; and
- (ii) the person pays the taxes, interest and allowance for expenses paid by the Minister of Natural Resources.

Legal Description:

ALL that parcel of land situate, lying and being at Necum Teuch, Halifax County, Nova Scotia, shown on Compiled Plan cp423 prepared by and filed with the Department of Natural Resources, Halifax, Nova Scotia, more particularly described as follows:

PID 40247439

Assessment Account/Municipal Tax Account #10515130

Size: 5.8 hectares (14.33 acres) more or less

BEGINNING at the intersection of the eastern boundary of Owner Unknown (PID 40247447) and the northern boundary of John Reginald Smith (PID 00549105);

THENCE northerly along the eastern boundary of Owner Unknown (PID 40247447) to a point on a southern boundary of Crown land (PID 40751018);

THENCE easterly along the southern boundary of Crown land (PID 40751018) to the northwestern boundary of Rodger Francis Levy (PID 40247421);

THENCE southerly along the eastern boundary of Rodger Francis Levy (PID 40247421) to a point on the northern boundary of John Reginald Smith (PID 00549105);

THENCE westerly along the northern boundary of John Reginald Smith (PID 00549105) to the place of beginning.

PID 40247447

Assessment Account/Municipal Tax Account #10515165

Size: 5.8 hectares (14.33 acres) more or less

BEGINNING at the intersection of the eastern boundary of Owner Unknown (PID 40247454) and the northern boundary of John Reginald Smith (PID 00549105);

THENCE northerly along the eastern boundary of Owner Unknown (PID 40247454) to a point on a southern boundary of Crown land (PID 40751018);

THENCE easterly along the southern boundary of Crown land (PID 40751018) to the northwestern corner of Owner Unknown (PID 40247439);

THENCE southerly along the eastern boundary of Owner Unknown (PID 40247439) to a point on the northern boundary of John Reginald Smith (PID 00549105);

THENCE westerly along the northern boundary of John Reginald Smith (PID 00549105) to the place of beginning.

PID 40247454

Assessment Account/Municipal Tax Account #10515173

Size: 5.8 hectares (14.33 acres) more or less

BEGINNING at Crown Post HX7634 being the eastern corner of Crown land (PID 40247462);

THENCE northerly along the eastern boundary of Crown land (PID 40247462) to Crown Post HX7633;

THENCE continuing northerly along the eastern boundary of Crown land (PID 40247462) to Crown Post HX7632 being a point on the southern boundary of Crown land (PID 40751018);

THENCE easterly along the southern boundary of Crown land (PID 40751018) to the western corner of Owner Unknown (PID 40247447);

THENCE southerly along the western boundary of Owner Unknown (PID 40247447) to a point on the northern boundary of John Reginald Smith (PID 00549105);

THENCE westerly along the northern boundary of John Reginald Smith (PID 00549105) to the place of beginning.

By authority of Order in Council Number 1999-498 dated October 13, 1999, the Minister of Natural Resources caused the land to be purchased and authorized this Certificate to be executed.

Gretchen Pohlkamp
Executive Director
Land Services Branch
Department of Natural Resources

 NOVA SCOTIA

Crime. Police track down suspects through woods

Halifax Regional Police have arrested and charged two men after they were tracked through snow and woods following a break and enter Tuesday night.

Officers responded to a break-in at Wilson's Gas Stop on Ketch Harbour Road, on Tuesday around 2:35 a.m. When officers arrived, they found one of the doors had been forced open and there were signs of a disturbance inside, with snowy footprints leading to outside.

Two K-9 units arrived on the scene shortly after and tracked

Charges

The men were arrested and are scheduled to appear in court Tuesday, facing numerous criminal charges, including break-and-enter.

the suspects for nearly two hours through a wooded area towards the Herring Cove Road area, where two male suspects were apprehended hiding in a shed. **METRO**

Cape Breton. Report clears officer in spouse complaint

The provincial agency that investigates complaints against police has cleared a Cape Breton Regional Police officer of any wrongdoing in connection with a complaint filed by his former common-law partner.

The Serious Incident Response Team (SIRT) released its investigation report Tuesday.

The report resulted from a complaint filed after a 21-year-old female called regional police last Nov. 10 and 11 to

report that her former partner had unlawfully entered her home, taken her dog, some protein powder, and two pairs of boots.

In a statement to SIRT investigators, the woman suggested court orders prohibited the officer from entering her home, but the investigation revealed the home was jointly owned by the couple, even though the officer had moved out. **CAPE BRETON POST**

South Shore. Man charged over online chats with girls

A South Shore man is facing two charges of Internet luring involving chats with at least six girls under the age of 16.

An RCMP release says the provincial ICE unit carried out a search warrant at a home in Maitland on Feb. 6 and arrested Alexander John Ernst, 29, after a concerned parent told RCMP that the accused had contacted his 10- and 12-year-old daughters through social media.

The investigation led to al-

legations from two more girls, that they had been chatting with the accused and made arrangements to meet him in person. So far, police have identified six underage girls from the Bridgewater area with whom Ernst was allegedly in contact.

The RCMP believe Ernst may have been in contact with more young girls, and are asking anyone with information to contact them at 902-527-5555. **METRO**

Man, woman lose Truro home to overnight fire

Brunswick Street.
House to be torn down after multiple departments, 45 to 50 firefighters battle blaze

An investigation into the cause of a house fire early Tuesday morning that displaced a man and a woman will continue on Wednesday.

Ryan Thibeau, fire inspector with the Truro Fire Service, said the Brunswick Street house needs to be torn down.

"We deemed it unsafe to be inside, so we're bringing in an excavator to tear it down," he said, adding he hoped the house would be torn down in the morning. "Once it has been torn down, we will continue our investigation."

The fire was reported at around 12:45 a.m. Tuesday and when firefighters arrived, the home was engulfed in flames.

"It was fully involved," said Truro Fire Service Deputy Chief John Congdon from the scene.

Fire Chief Blois Currie said he believed at least one person was home when the fire broke out, but couldn't confirm that.

A news release issued by Dan Bedell, the Atlantic communications director of the Canadian Red Cross, said volunteers assisted a man with emergency lodging and purchases of food, clothing and footwear.

"A woman is staying with relatives for now and has



Two people were displaced Tuesday after a fire destroyed their home in Truro. **TRURO DAILY NEWS**

Quoted

"We're not sure yet where it started. It was fully involved when we got there and coming out through the windows." Truro Fire Service Chief Blois Currie

also been offered emergency aid from the Red Cross if needed," the release says.

Firefighters took a defensive attack to the exterior to protect neighbouring homes.

"We were able to knock down the fire immediately, but it was stubborn on the

top because we couldn't get in," Congdon said. "We had some great assistance from Salmon River and Hilden, and the Bible Hill Rapid Intervention Team."

Both Cobequid Fire and Onslow-Belmont departments were on standby. In total, Congdon said there were about 45 to 50 firefighters on the scene. **TRURO DAILY NEWS**



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Beacon of remembrance for five lost souls

Miss Ally tragedy.

Porch lights, lighthouse to shine on Sunday for missing fishermen

As the solemn second anniversary of the Miss Ally tragedy approaches, people across southwestern Nova Scotia and beyond will be

turning on their front porch lights to remember all those who have been lost at sea.

In Barrington, the beacon at the Seal Island Light Museum will shine for four nights, beginning on Sunday.

Five fishermen were lost at sea in stormy weather on Feb. 17, 2013.

During the desperate search for the fishermen, many people left their porch

Never found:

Captain Katlin Nickerson, Joel Hopkins, Tyson Townsend, Billy Jack Hatfield and Steven Cole Nickerson

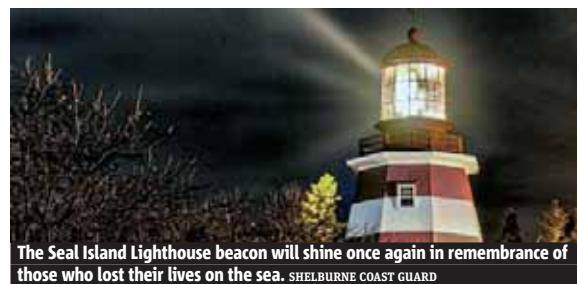
lights on in the symbolic hope that it would help them find their way home. The beacon at the Seal Island Light-

house Museum was also lit.

The capsized hull of the Miss Ally was eventually discovered and searched by divers, but the bodies of the fishermen were never found.

Two years later, there are reminders of the five men throughout the area, including memorials, murals and memorial park benches located along a popular trail.

SHELBOURNE COAST GUARD



Show. Kevin Smith strikes back with second evening

Kevin Smith is coming back to Halifax.

The writer, comedian, podcaster and film director will return to the Spatz Theatre at Citadel High School on Sunday, March 22, for his popular An Evening With Kevin Smith show.

Smith first came to Halifax in a sold-out talk at the

school theatre in 2011.

As part of his show, Smith will screen his new movie Tusk at 6 p.m., then host a Q&A session.

Tickets go on sale Friday at 10 a.m. through sonicconcerts.com. They cost \$58.99 in advance and \$63.99 on the day of the show.

METRO



Kevin Smith will screen his new movie, Tusk, and host a Q&A session during the next An Evening with Kevin Smith event, set for March. CONTRIBUTED

Labour

Conciliator helps Acadia, faculty reach agreement

Acadia University in Wolfville has reached a tentative contract with its faculty association.

The university has issued a statement saying negotiating teams for the administration and the union reached a deal Monday with the help of a provincially appointed conciliator.

Spokesman Peter Williams says the university is pleased with the settlement, which he described as fair.

The union is expected to vote on the contract later this week.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Charity

United Way announces funds raised last year

United Way Halifax says it raised close to \$6 million in 2014.

At an annual celebration breakfast on Tuesday, the charity revealed that it raised \$5.91 million in Halifax last year, bringing the running total to more than \$165 million since it began here in the city 90 years ago.

It was also announced Tuesday that 2014 campaign co-chairs Jean Michel Blais, the chief of Halifax Regional Police, and Nancy Tower will stay on this year in those same roles.

METRO



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Fahmy, Harper reached out to Egypt's president: PMO

Prime Minister Stephen Harper has personally reached out to Egypt's president to secure the release of a Canadian journalist imprisoned in Cairo.

Harper's office won't say exactly when the overture between the prime minister and Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi took place.

"The Prime Minister has communicated with the president on this case. I'm not going to get into the specifics of the communication between the PM and the president, including the timing or details of that communication," Harper's spokesman Jason MacDonald said in an email.

Opposition Leader Tom Mulcair has called on Harper

to "personally" reach out to his Egyptian counterpart to secure the release.

Mohamed Fahmy was working for satellite news broadcaster Al Jazeera English when he was arrested in December 2013, along with two colleagues. They were accused of supporting the banned Islamist Muslim Brotherhood group of ousted Egyptian president Mohammed Morsi and were charged with fabricating footage to undermine Egypt's national security.

After a trial that was internationally denounced as a sham, Fahmy was sentenced to seven years in prison. Following an appeal in January, a retrial is set to begin on Thursday. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Health. Not vaccinating is 'irresponsible': Ambrose

The federal health minister says she can't help but get emotional over some parents' decision not to get their children vaccinated against infectious diseases.

"I find it really irresponsible," Rona Ambrose said Tuesday, adding that anyone who still believes a debunked and fraudulent 1990s study linking vaccines to autism should speak to their doctor.

Ambrose said measles in particular is an incredibly infectious disease and parents who refuse to get their kids immunized are putting other children at risk.

"If you don't immunize your child and you send them to school potentially ill or exposed, another child who may be more vulnerable than your own is at even a greater risk, and that's what concerns me the most," she told an unrelated



Federal health minister Rona Ambrose
THE CANADIAN PRESS

ed news conference.

She called vaccines miracles of modern medicine that save lives. Ambrose said Canada spends billions of dollars on vaccines for children around the world, but educated Canadians who won't allow their kids to be immunized through a publicly funded program are making the wrong decision.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Arctic

DND concerned over spy drones

The country's chief of defence intelligence has taken an in-depth look at how Russia, or even China, could use drones to spy in Canada's Arctic in a wide-ranging report that was quietly flagged to some of the country's closest allies.

The report, obtained under access-to-information legislation, comes as Russia moves troops into a northern base near the Finnish border as part of an extensive military buildup. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Doctor-assisted suicide

Notwithstanding clause will not be used: MacKay

Federal Justice Minister Peter MacKay said that the use of the notwithstanding clause in response to last week's Supreme Court of Canada ruling on doctor-assisted suicide is not being considered. The court struck down the criminal ban on doctors assisting in the deaths of mentally competent but suffering patients. It gave the government 12 months to draft a replacement law. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**



Assembly of First Nations Chief Perry Bellegarde
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Vatican may be asked to repeal old Papal edicts

Human rights. Many say Catholic decrees of 1455 and 1493 allowed for the ill treatment of aboriginal peoples

Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission is weighing whether to ask the Vatican to repeal the Papal Bulls of Discovery that granted 15th-century explorers the right to conquer the New World and the "heathen" aborigines.

Chair Murray Sinclair says the commission examining the impact of Canada's Indian residential schools is looking carefully at the 1455 and 1493 Catholic edicts as part of its final report.

Many argue the proclamations legitimized the treatment of aboriginal people as "less

than human."

Crown sovereignty in Canada can be traced back to those papal bulls, and neither Canada nor the United States has repudiated them, Sinclair said.

A growing chorus in Canada is calling on the Vatican to help begin a new relationship with aboriginal people on equal footing. The discovery bulls, and others in the same vein that followed, gave Catholic explorers "full and free power, authority and jurisdiction of every kind" and outlined their "duty to lead the peoples dwelling in those islands and countries to embrace the Christian religion."

If aboriginal people refused, the Vatican granted its envoys the authority to enslave and kill.

If the commission recommends the bulls be rescinded, Sinclair said, it has to weigh the legal implications, which could strike at the core of Crown

Jordan's Principle

A study suggests aboriginal children often get poorer health care than other children while governments argue over who pays the bill.

• Co-author Vandana Sinha, a professor at McGill University, says the problem persists despite the federal government's position that there are no violations

sovereignty over land.

The United Nations appointed a special rapporteur in 2009 who found the bulls lie "at the root of the violations of indigenous peoples' human rights."

The edicts have resulted in the "mass appropriation of the lands, territories and resources of indigenous peoples," the

One toddler twin set to receive her dad's liver

The father of Binh, left, and Phuoc Wagner underwent an operation Tuesday to give part of his liver to one of the ailing three-year-old twin girls. Phuoc and Binh both have Alagille syndrome, a genetic disorder that affects the liver, heart and other organs. Without liver transplants, the girls will die. Doctors decided which of the twins would receive the transplant after the family said it could not do so. The family's Facebook page indicated that Phuoc will be the twin to receive her father's liver. The Wagners are still waiting for a liver donor for their other daughter.

PHOTO: HANDOUT/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE
TEXT: THE CANADIAN PRESS



of the so-called Jordan's Principle.

• Jordan's Principle holds that no aboriginal child should suffer denials, delays or disruptions of health services available to other children due to jurisdictional disputes. Jordan Anderson was a Cree boy who died in hospital in 2005.

UN found. They also form the legal basis of many modern-day land-claim disputes, it said.

For Keith Matthew, former chief of Simpcw First Nation in British Columbia, it's about "righting a historic wrong."

"I'm no animal. I'm a person, a human being," Matthew said. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

AFN chief sets high hopes for meeting on missing women

It may not be the full-blown inquiry he would like, but the new national chief of the Assembly of First Nations says he still has high hopes for what is sure to be an emotionally wrought meeting later this month on murdered and missing aboriginal women.

Among the items on Perry Bellegarde's wish list: more federal and provincial money for housing, safe shelters, day

care and wellness centres; more programs to prevent violence; and greater co-ordination among the country's various police forces when it comes to investigating cases that involve aboriginal women. Above all, Bellegarde hopes the two Conservative ministers in attendance — Status of Women Minister Kellie Leitch and Aboriginal Affairs Minister Bernard Valcourt — will share what they

hear at the Feb. 27 event with their cabinet colleagues.

"We welcome their support. We welcome their attendance. We had hoped that they would take things back to their cabinet colleagues, that the dialogue and the discussions and recommendations from around the table for the ongoing support for this inquiry, or for an action plan," Bellegarde said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Malaysia

Opposition leader begins jail term

Malaysian opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim began a 5-year prison sentence on Tuesday after a court rejected his final appeal against a sodomy conviction, a decision he called a "murder of judicial

independence" and human rights groups condemned as unjust.

The case was widely seen at home and abroad as politically motivated to eliminate any threats to the ruling coalition, whose popularity has slowly been eroding since 2008. Anwar is a popular, vocal and visible symbol of the opposition's resurgence. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Argentina

Police find another person's DNA at lawyer crime scene

Argentine investigators said Tuesday they have found a second person's DNA in the apartment where prosecutor Alberto Nisman was found dead and have called in a

witness to check for a match.

Nisman's mysterious death came days after he presented a report alleging that President Cristina Fernandez had conspired to protect Iranian officials implicated in the 1994 bombing of a Jewish community centre in which 85 people died. Fernandez and Iran have denied the allegations.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Exploration

SpaceX delays observatory launch

Dangerously high wind is keeping a deep-space observatory grounded for yet another day.

SpaceX called off Tuesday evening's planned launch of the Deep Space Climate Observatory with just 12

minutes remaining in the countdown. Wind gusts reached 115 mph several miles up, a safety concern.

It was the company's second attempt in three days to launch the spacecraft first envisioned by former vice-president Al Gore. SpaceX must launch the observatory by Wednesday or face a delay until Feb. 20. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Fighting picks up ahead of peace talks

Ukraine. Latest escalation of violence leaves 12 dead and 64 wounded as European leaders prepare to meet with Russia today

Fighting intensified Tuesday in eastern Ukraine ahead of crucial peace talks set for Wednesday, with both sides claiming significant advances. The government accused the Russian-backed rebels of shelling a town far behind the front lines, killing 12 people and left scores wounded.

The fighting, which the UN says has killed more than 5,300 people since April, comes ahead of a summit planned for Wednesday in Minsk involving the leaders of France, Germany, Russia and Ukraine.

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko said the talks were "one of the last" opportunities for ending the fighting.

"Tomorrow's meeting in Minsk offers one of the last chances to declare an unconditional cease-fire and pull

Diplomatic relations

Merkel has been vocal about reaching a peaceful solution between Russia and Ukraine, but the West appears less married to diplomacy as the sole road toward peace.

- **Arming Ukraine.** Despite meeting with Merkel, U.S. President Obama is undecided whether the U.S. will move to arm Ukraine with lethal defensive weapons should talks prove fruitless.
- **Russia responds.** The Kremlin has warned the West against sending weapons or pressuring Russia, which it says could destabilize the situation.

back heavy artillery," Poroshenko said Tuesday.

On Monday German Chancellor Angela Merkel met with U.S. President Barack Obama and Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper to secure support for a peaceful resolution.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Alabama officials voice opposition to gay marriage ruling



While Ernesto Mena was the sole protester outside Mobile County Probate court Monday, judge Don Davis refused to issue same-sex marriage licenses to the dozens gathered inside the courthouse. **SHARON STEINMANN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

ISIL. Over 20K foreigners joining radicals: Officials

Foreign fighters are streaming into Syria and Iraq in unprecedented numbers to join the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) or other extremist groups. At least 3,400 are from Western nations with 20,000 from around the world, U.S. intelligence officials say in an updated estimate.

Intelligence agencies now believe that as many as 150 Americans have tried and some have succeeded in reaching in the Syrian war zone. Some of those Americans were arrested en route, some died in the area and a small number are still fighting with extremists. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Nigeria. Boko Haram kill seven, abduct 30 in hijacks

Nigeria's Boko Haram Islamic extremists have abducted about 30 people including eight Cameroonian girls and killed seven hostages in two bus hijacks in Cameroon and Nigeria, according to Cameroon residents and a Nigerian intelligence officer Tuesday.

The bus attack took place

Sunday about 18 kilometres from Cameroon's border with Nigeria. Seven other hostages were slain and their bodies scattered near the border, said Chetima Ahmidou, the principal of a school in the area. The girls range in age from 11 to 14 and come from the town of Koza, he said. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

U.S. Supreme Court ruling

The top U.S. court is expected to rule later this year whether same-sex couples have a right to marry anywhere in the U.S.

• **Firmly opposed.** In addition to Moore, Alabama Gov. Robert Bentley said he believes in traditional marriage, but that the issue should be resolved through legal channels.

Gay marriage has come only to parts of Alabama after the state's chief justice sought to put the weddings on hold in defiance of a federal court order, echoing familiar refrains of resistance in the U.S. South to the involvement of federal courts.

The uneven marriage landscape left one thing certain Tuesday: The legal manoeuvring over gay marriage would continue in one of the country's most conservative states. It was a reflection of how deeply divided parts of the U.S. remain over the social issue, even as

the legal tide has swung sharply in favour of gay marriage.

A federal judge's ruling went into effect Monday overturning Alabama's ban on gay marriage after the U.S. Supreme Court refused the state's request to stop the marriages.

But Alabama Chief Justice Roy Moore directed probate judges to refuse the licenses and resist what he called an "illegal" intrusion by the federal court.

In another dissenting opinion, Justice Clarence Thomas criticized the Supreme Court's

order on Alabama, saying his colleagues were inappropriately signalling they intend to clear the way for gay marriage across the nation.

More Alabama courthouses allowed same-sex marriage Tuesday but other counties still refused, prompting a new round of federal court action.

So far, couples can marry in at least 10 of the state's 67 counties.

With the Alabama ruling, gay marriage remains banned in only 13 of the 50 U.S. states. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Robots will cut labour costs 24%, report says

Growth. Robot usage forecast to rise 10% a year in the world's 25 biggest exporting countries, up from current 2% to 3%

Cheaper, better robots are expected to cut labour costs at Canadian factories by 24 per

cent over the next decade, as more companies replace human workers at a faster pace, according to a report issued Tuesday.

Globally, labour costs are expected to be reduced by some 16 per cent by 2025, the report by the Boston Consulting Group predicts.

In a separate report, RBC Global Asset Management notes that robots can be re-

programmed far faster and more efficiently than humans can be retrained when products are updated or replaced.

Robots won't be limited to developed countries with their aging, high-cost workforces. Even low-wage China will use robots to slash labour costs by 18 per cent, Boston Consulting predicts.

Increasing automation is likely to change the way

companies evaluate where to open and expand factories. Boston Consulting expects manufacturers will "no longer simply chase cheap labour." Factories will employ fewer people, and that could lure more manufacturers back to Canada and the United States from lower-wage countries.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS



Robots install rivets on a 2015 Ford F-150 truck at the Dearborn Truck Plant in Michigan. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE



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Cyberattacks. Hackers can't be kept out: Experts

As hackers routinely overwhelm computer defences, experts say cybersecurity is beyond due for an overhaul.

Their message: Neutralize attackers once they're inside networks rather than fixating on trying to keep them out.

According to U.S. cybersecurity company FireEye, 229 days is the median length of time attackers lurk inside their victim's computers before being detected or revealing themselves, underscoring the weakness of conventional tools in identifying intruders.

Experts aren't recommending organizations stop deploying perimeter defences such as antivirus software

Newsweek Twitter feed

The Newsweek Twitter feed was briefly hacked Tuesday, purportedly by Cyber Caliphate, a hacker group affiliated with Islamic State.

- The posts included a message targeting U.S. President Barack Obama, his wife Michelle and their daughters.

or firewalls. But they say a strategy that could be likened to laying traps is needed to counter the sophisticated hacks.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bank of Canada

Experts predict key lending rate will be cut again

The Bank of Canada says it's prepared to take action to help navigate the economic uncertainty tied to low oil prices, as experts predict it once again could cut its trend-setting interest rate.

Senior deputy governor Carolyn Wilkins made the remarks in a speech Tuesday — as many observers expect the central bank is preparing to drop its rate even further next month.

The Bank of Canada blindsided markets in

January by lowering its overnight rate to 0.75 per cent from one per cent.

Wilkins, who expects the Canadian economy to grow with help from the lower loonie and a stronger U.S. economy, predicted Canada's non-energy sector to lead the growth.

Wilkins also indicated the central bank is monitoring job-market concerns, such as the low average number of hours worked and the high rate of involuntary part-time workers. She said "prime-age" workers between 25 and 54 years old and young people between 15 and 24 years old remain underemployed.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR
79.53¢
(-0.69¢)



TSX
15,112.52 (+11.82)

OIL
\$50.02 US (-\$2.84)

Natural gas: \$2.677 (+8.0¢)
Dow Jones: 17,868.76 (+139.55)

GOLD
\$1,232.20 US (-\$9.30)

VOICES

VACCINES FOR KIDS SHOULD BE MANDATORY



KRISTEN THOMPSON
readers@metronews.ca

Ready for your daily dose of controversy? I believe strongly in childhood vaccinations. Wait, I'm not done. I believe they should be mandatory.

I can feel thousands of readers bristling right now. This is a sensitive topic because most of us love our children, and most of us want what is best for them. But that doesn't mean we are always acting in their best interest. And that's when the government should step in.

Here's why: We need a 95 per cent vaccination rate for herd immunity to protect against contagious diseases, and according to UNICEF, Canada's rate hovers around 84 per cent. So until we raise the immunization rates, we are all at risk.

If you think the government has no right to meddle in how we care for our children, you're wrong. It meddles every day, and rightly so.

It intervenes when children are raised in filthy homes, allowed to ride in cars without seatbelts, left unattended at home, or refused life-saving medical treatment. Religion, culture and ideology do not trump these laws.

3-DNA-sourced babies

Why is it different when parents say "no" to childhood vaccines?

Maybe because it was less of an issue a decade ago. Vaccination rates are declining, according to the U.S. Center for Disease Control, due in part to a growing culture of distrust in big pharma and regulatory agencies. What this means is we need better education campaigns and more transparency into vaccine safety and oversight.

The reality is we've been inoculating against deadly diseases for more than 200 years, and the science is well-established: Vaccines are safe and a crucial component of childhood and community health. Ingredients undergo rigorous testing and serious reactions — which are incredibly rare — are highly monitored.

The diseases we vaccinate against can be fatal — they kill hundreds of thousands of children in developing countries every year. And they can return when vaccination rates decline. That means the benefits of vaccines by far outweigh the risks.

So why do we allow parents to gamble with kids' lives — their own kids, or the lives of newborns and other peoples' children who can't be immunized for health reasons — by refusing vaccinations? Especially



The diseases we vaccinate against kill hundreds of thousands of children in developing countries every year. GETTY IMAGES

when the science is so clear, and the dangers so terrible?

This is not a debate about individual rights versus public health, because kids are not extensions of us — they are individuals with their own rights.

The debate is where to draw the line when it comes to parental freedom of choice.

Parenthood, in the wise words of my father, is not a right but a privilege, and that's an important distinction. It's not our "right" to make any choice we want for our kids, it's our duty to make wise ones, ones that set them on the best path.

That's why when a parent makes a choice on behalf of the child that puts that child or others at serious

risk, regardless of their intentions, society should step in.

Is this dangerous government overreach? Slovenia and Croatia don't think so. Both countries have made vaccinations mandatory for nine specific diseases.

Croatia's Constitutional Court said it best when it ruled "the child's right to health is more than the rights of parents to the (wrong) choice."

That country's decision to overrule parental freedom for the sake of community well-being means that diphtheria, whooping cough and measles have been eradicated there.

In fact, 14 European countries have at least one mandatory vaccination included in their program.

So what would happen if Canada also imposed mandatory vaccinations? Many parents would be up in arms. But ... so what?

We live in a highly relativistic society and tend to wring our hands endlessly over respect for other people's points of view, even when those views are contrarian. But when people choose to reject clear scientific evidence in favour of their own misguided beliefs, the hand-wringing should stop.

Especially when the well-being of children is involved.

'There is a line and we're crossing it. I think we can cross it if we are extremely cautious': Bioethicist

With the three-parent IVF technique recently getting the green light in the U.K., debate is brewing in Canada about the controversial procedure.

While it is currently illegal in Canada under the Assisted Human Reproduction Act of 2004, proponents say it would allow couples to have healthy children in cases where the mother might otherwise pass on mitochondrial disease. Moreover, these children would be almost entirely genetically their own offspring.

Metro asked Kerry Bowman, a bioethicist with the University of Toronto, for his take. The following has been edited down from a longer interview:

You've said before that you give the technique cautious approval. Why?

Approval is a bit strong. I get it with three-person reproduction and why you would want to do this. By doing so you can hopefully prevent the suffering and early death of babies and young children. There's something called mitochondrial disease and if you do this technique, hopefully — if it goes well — you could

Is three-parent IVF a fair term?

"Some people would say it is an overly dramatic term and it's inaccurate, because there's really two genetic parents. I don't really agree with that, because the child wouldn't be born if you didn't have the third input from the third parent, so I think it is actually an accurate use of language."

Kerry Bowman, bioethicist

avoid that. But we are crossing a line. Some people say what we are really doing is genetically altering an unborn child. We're actually changing what's called the human germ line. And some people say, 'Well, what does that matter?' But when people are looking at their identity, they're studying their ancestry and who we are as people, our geographical origins from an evolutionary point of view, migration

point of view — that's all traced through mitochondrial DNA. Identity isn't necessarily about percentages; it's about what your story is.

So you're saying this is significantly different from other reproductive assistance technologies? Yes, this is the first time it would be inheritable, passed down from generation to generation. So there are a lot of things to consider. What are the risks? Unknown. There are no foreseeable risks but that doesn't mean no risks will occur.

What other applications could this type of technology have? We don't have the capacity yet, but this is the type of technique that could be used to genetically enhance unborn babies, so designer babies, essentially. I don't think that would be the right thing to do. But I think with mitochondrial DNA, the biggest thing is that there is a line and we're crossing it. I think we can cross it if we are extremely cautious.

What specific policies would you suggest we adopt then? I fully acknowledge that right

A simplified explanation:

The technique takes the nucleus of a mother's egg and places it in a donor's egg, from which the nucleus has been removed. This new egg contains the donor's mitochondria (but not the mother's). It is then fertilized with the father's sperm.

- In this way, the child inherits the vast majority of its DNA from the mother and father, but inherits the mitochondrial DNA from the donor mother.

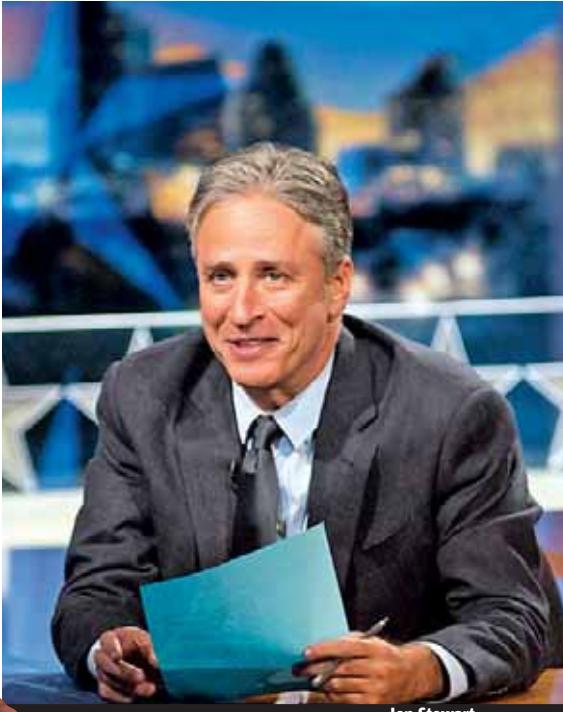
now it is illegal, but a lot has changed since 2004. A lot. So I think you would need to go case by case, and the only cases that would be allowed — if it were going to be allowed — would be for cases of mitochondrial disease. And I think it would be wise to wait to see what happens in Britain.

INTERVIEWED BY EMINA GAMULIN/METRO

Gossip

NED EHRBAR

METRO'S TAKE ON
THE WORLD OF
CELEBRITIES



Jon Stewart GETTY IMAGES

Stewart writes his Dear Jon letter to Comedy Central

Jon Stewart will be leaving The Daily Show after nearly 17 years, he announced to the audience of Tuesday night's episode. The comedian, writer and director took over in 1999 from Craig Kilborn, slowly turning the fledgling newscast spoof into a cultural and political force, taking politicians on both sides of the aisle, the media and even himself to task for any misstep, while also launching the careers of Stephen Colbert, Steve Carell

and John Oliver.

"For the better part of the last two decades, I have had the incredible honour and privilege of working with Jon Stewart. His comedic brilliance is second to none," Comedy Central president Michele Ganeless said in a statement. "Jon has been at the heart of Comedy Central, championing and nurturing the best talent in the industry, in front of and behind the camera. Through his unique voice and vision,

The Daily Show has become a cultural touchstone for millions of fans and an unparalleled platform for political comedy that will endure for years to come."

No set date for Stewart's departure was announced, though Ganeless did say the host would continue on the show "until later this year." Stewart first took a leave of absence from the show to direct his feature film, *Rosewater*, leaving Oliver to sit in for him.

Weird Al gets Whiplashed

Weird Al Yankovic is taking the prep for his upcoming world tour very seriously. Maybe a little too seriously, according to a new College Humor video that pits Yankovic against Oscar nominee J.K. Simmons' terrorizing Whiplash music teacher. If you've always loved tense Oscar movie standoffs and accordion-drenched polka, but never dreamed of the two flavours blended together, this is your moment.



Weird Al Yankovic

Double the Spider-Man, half the Garfield

Good news for comic book movie fans, but not so much good news for Amazing Spider-Man star Andrew Garfield. Marvel has hashed out a deal to regain creative control of one of its highest-profile characters without the beleaguered Sony having to lose one of its two remaining bankable franchises — the other being Bond.

According to a statement from Marvel, "the new Spider-Man will first appear in a Marvel film from Marvel's Cinematic Universe. Sony Pictures will thereafter release the next installment of its \$4-billion Spider-Man franchise, on July 28, 2017, in a film that will be co-produced by Kevin Feige and his expert team at Marvel, and Amy Pascal, who

oversaw the franchise launch for the studio 13 years ago. Together, they will collaborate on a new creative direction for the web-slinger. Sony Pictures will continue to finance, distribute, own and have final creative control of the Spider-Man films."

Unfortunately, when they say "the new Spider-Man," they're not kidding. The Hollywood Reporter claims that current Spidey star Andrew Garfield will not be involved. Now the question is which Marvel film Spider-Man first pops up in. The smart money is on Captain America: Civil War, due out in May 2016, but wouldn't it be awesome if he snuck into this year's Avengers?



Andrew Garfield

WASTE COLLECTION NOTICE GARBAGE/ORGANICS/RECYCLABLES

Nova Scotia Heritage Day Honouring Viola Desmond

Please be advised that there will be no garbage, organics or recyclables collection services on Nova Scotia Heritage Day, Monday February 16th, 2015. Collection services for that day will be provided the preceding Saturday February 14th, 2015.

Collection Services can begin as early as 7am. To ensure collection please place materials curbside the evening prior to collection day.

No Collection NS Heritage Day Monday, February 16th	→	Collection will occur the preceding Saturday, February 14th
Otter Lake Facility Closed Monday, February 16th	→	Otter Lake Facility Open Saturday, February 14th 7am - 7pm
HRM Recycling Plant Closed Monday, February 16th	→	HRM Recycling Plant Open Saturday, February 14th 7:30am - 6:00pm
Household Special Waste Depot Closed Saturday, February 14th	→	Household Special Waste Depot Open Saturday, February 21st 9am - 4pm

A watershed time for transgender rights

Social change. Gossip about Bruce Jenner's possible transition is occurring at the same moment that key legal battles are heating up

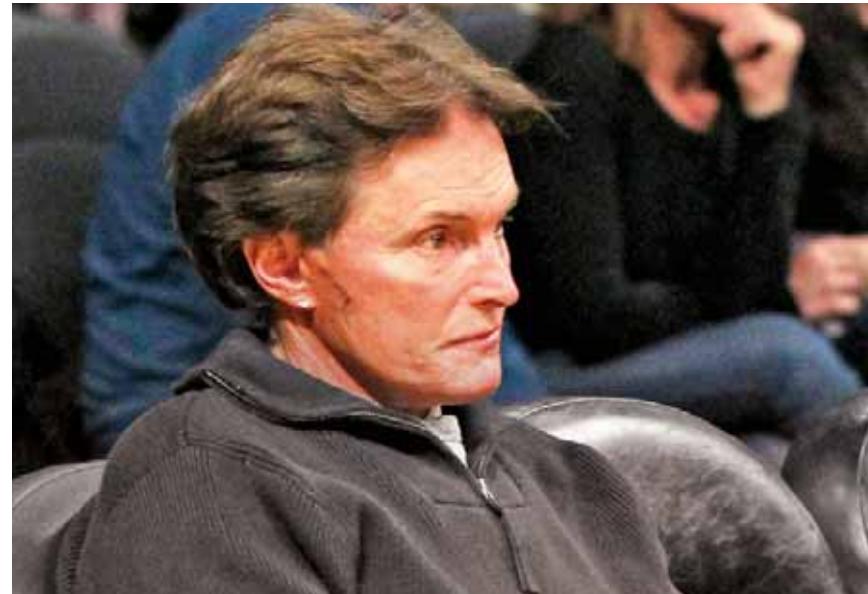
Whether or not Olympic legend Bruce Jenner becomes its new champion, the transgender rights movement is making remarkable strides on many fronts — ranging from mass-media visibility to legal protections. Yet despite the gains, activists say many transgender Americans, far more so than gays and lesbians, remain vulnerable to violence, discrimination and lack of understanding.

"We see transgender rights as the next wave of the work we need to do, after marriage equality," said Katherine Franke, director of Columbia Law School's Center for Gender and Sexuality Law.

"Getting protections on paper is important," she said. "But the day-to-day lives of many transgender people won't be affected — they're unemployed, they're experiencing violence in the streets, in shelters, in schools."

Allyson Robinson, an activist working to end the U.S. military's ban on transgender people serving openly, said gains for transgender rights in some areas have triggered a backlash from some social and religious conservatives who feel they've lost the fight against same-sex marriage.

"Transgender people and



Former Olympic athlete Bruce Jenner, with stitches and a scar on his face, is seen here at an NBA basketball game in Los Angeles in 2012. Jenner has recently declined public comment on whether or not he is preparing to live as a woman, but those in his inner circle have not challenged the speculation. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

their identities and communities are under siege right now on multiple fronts," she said, citing as an example recent bills proposed in state legislatures that would make it illegal for transgender people to use a bathroom that doesn't correspond with their biological gender.

The mix of advancement and adversity forms a backdrop to what promises to be an intriguing melodrama over the coming months regarding Jenner, the 1976 decathlon gold medallist who was featured on Wheaties boxes and more recently has

appeared as a real-life step-father on *Keeping Up With the Kardashians*.

Though Jenner himself has declined public comment, those in his inner circles have not challenged the mounting speculation that he is preparing to live as a woman and perhaps will appear in a new reality series about his transition.

His mother, Esther Jenner, told The Associated Press on Wednesday that she had spoken with her son about his private and public journey.

"He said, 'I want to be hon-

est about my identity, and I know this is coming out in the press,'" Esther Jenner

Quoted

"Transgender people and their identities and communities are under siege right now on multiple fronts." Activist Allyson Robinson

said. "He started by saying, 'We need to have a long, serious talk.' I am at peace with what he is and what he's doing."

Over the weekend, Jenner was in an unwelcome spotlight as one of the drivers in a four-car crash in Malibu, Calif., that claimed a woman's life. The spotlight on him could grow more intense in the months ahead.

Among activists and bloggers who focus on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender issues, there's widespread sentiment that Jenner alone should dictate the pace and the details of any disclosure he wants to make about his identity. Yet there's also keen interest in what sort of impact he might have were he to confirm a transition that would make him arguably the most famous American

ever to openly identify as transgender.

Depending on how Jenner's story is presented and received, the revelation that a lauded athlete and member of one of the nation's most visible families is transgender could be comparable to the cultural shifts that accompanied the news that movie star Rock Hudson was gay and died of AIDS-related complications and that basketball great Magic Johnson, a heterosexual, was HIV-positive.

"In the long term, we'd say the disclosures were helpful for the movement to normalize homosexuality and bring better medical attention to AIDS/HIV," Franke said. "When celebrities came out as being members of these communities, it ended up shifting the national narrative." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Uma, is that you?



Uma Thurman GETTY IMAGES

A change of face for Thurman

You might just have to take our word for it that you're looking at a photograph of Kill Bill star Uma Thurman, who hit the red carpet for NBC's *The Slap* looking nearly unrecognizable. Her minimal makeup look seems like a perfect opportunity to illustrate just how much of a difference eyeshadow and eyeliner can make. Seriously, it's remarkable. Or maybe it's just the contrast between the very red lipstick and the nearly makeup-free eyes. Or the lack of distinctive bangs. Or the fact that she didn't really feel like smiling.

NED EHRBAR / MWN

The Slap a star-powered character study

TV. Eight-episode series examines the aftermath of a moment of discipline

LISA WEIDENFELD
Metro in New York City

The *Slap* represents a new step for NBC. The hour-long show is a drama based on an Australian program, but it's a limited episode run, with only eight shows in its season, and a serious list of prestige players took part. The *Kids Are All Right* director Lisa Cholodenko directed every episode, playwright Jon Robin Baitz wrote it, and the show stars Peter Sarsgaard, Thandie Newton, Zachary Quinto and Uma Thurman. The action centres around a group of Brooklynites whose urban existence is shaken up when one of them (Quinto) slaps another's misbehaving child at backyard barbecue.

Asked what it's like playing the person at the heart of the action, Quinto says, "It's only the centre of the controversy because it's the incident. There

Peter Sarsgaard and Zach Quinto star in *The Slap*. HANDOUT

are so many other things that are happening and there are so many other levels of complexity in each of these characters. They all have their own epicentre of disaster in their lives."

The series examines ideas of parenting in America, always a heady topic, as there's a clash between the Greek immigrant family on one side of the debate, and the longtime U.S. residents on the other. Is the slap child abuse, or an accepted

mode of discipline for a rowdy child? Despite the fact that these are all people who are close enough to attend a party together, Quinto says the characters will "very clearly" divide into camps, but on a broader scale, he hopes audiences are more torn.

"I think if it works, there'll be a lot of going back and forth," says Quinto.

"I like to hold a mirror up to the audience and I like for them

to take responsibility for their feelings and their thoughts and their beliefs."

It's a new direction for Quinto, who many audiences know from his work as Spock or as the villainous Sylar on *Heroes*.

"I was thrilled to get the opportunity to do this. I've known Robbie (Baitz) for years. I'm a big admirer of his work," says Quinto.

"I'm drawn to things that invite an audience in and light

Genre hero

• Though Quinto is making the change from genre to a more straightforward drama, he's still getting into trouble. "(My character) Harry is arguably the villain of the series, but in a very human way, so for me it was about getting into a world that was not elevated or supernatural or science fiction. This is a very human world. So now that I've had the opportunity to do that, I feel a sense of closure on the sort of villainous aspect of my persona."

• Just how goofy can Quinto get? He says he's "looking forward to a future of varied opportunities," and jokes that what's coming next will be "some lighter fare."

a little bit of a fire to generate some discourse, dialogue, debate, and it doesn't give the audience the answer. There's no clear-cut point of view with this story and I like that."

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So, what's New with the Girl this season?

TV. Jake Johnson chats about his character, his cast and the game that's caused a stir

LISA WEIDENFELD
Metro in New York City

Midway through its fourth season, *New Girl* is still finding new situations to throw its oddball loft residents into. This season has seen the characters exploring new careers, as Winston tries life as a cop, Jess takes on leadership responsibilities at her school and Nick and Schmidt decide to team up and sell sweatshirt suits. But that doesn't mean the show isn't going to give the people a little bit of what they love about the show. We talked to Jake Johnson



Jake Johnson has made up a new rule for *True American*, the show's beloved drinking game. CONTRIBUTED

Spinoff series

Saul debut among most watched in cable history

AMC's new *Breaking Bad* spinoff got off to an excellent start on Sunday evening, attracting 6.9 million viewers. This was the second-most-watched premiere in U.S. cable history, just behind the first episode of *The Closer*.

Bolstered by *The Walking Dead* as its lead-in, *Better Call Saul* premiered Sunday, Feb. 8 on AMC to

Look out for it

Anything else you can tease about what's coming up on the show?

- Justin Long is coming back, Josh Gad is coming back. So we got some good stuff coming up.

(Nick) about what's ahead for the show, and a new confusing rule for their famous history-based drinking game, *True American*.

Will we see more *True American* this year?

Absolutely. I think we'll see *True American* for as long as the show goes.

Are you an expert on the game at this point?

Here's the reality, and it's

disappointing for fans who want it to be something it's not. I say this as an expert, because I've been in every *True American* scene, and I was there when it started: There are no rules.

You guys are just making it up?

The guy who wrote the first one, Luvh Rakhe, came to set and said, we haven't fig-

ured this one out. It's some sort of a drinking game. And then we all started saying things that we used to do in drinking games.

So you just throw in anything you can think of.

It's like the chop suey of drinking games. Anything you got, throw it in. If you're playing quarters and want to turn it into *True American*,

you can. Just add it, and it's *True American*.

Well, there's a president on the coin.

That's right. That's what it is. You have to say a president if you hit it, then you point to who drinks and that's your vice-president. If they don't know the vice-president of the president you named, they have to take two drinks.

We just saw Nick get dumped. What's coming up for him?

Nick's going to be single a bit. I'd like to see Nick date a little bit. I'd like to see him find somebody. I just texted Liz Meriwether, maybe it's time Nick gets in a relationship. Hopefully she'll listen. I'd like to date someone who's a really good actor and do a bunch of stories with them.

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Cali's sand and surf combo

Adventure. Just a quick flight separates ski and surf in the Golden State's south

MIKE DOJC
life@metronews.ca

Shredding powder and riding frothy swells may be mutually exclusive pursuits but just as chefs routinely indulge palates by putting lobster and steak on the same plate, skiing and surfing don't have to be getaway strangers, even in the dead of winter. Indulge in the best of both worlds in Southern California by pairing a ski vacation at Mammoth Mountain with some surfing in San Diego.

Some like it cold

Mammoth Lakes, a quick flight from San Diego, LA. or San Francisco, is a snowy town that sits atop a sleeping volcano in a valley on the eastern side of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. A West Coast winter wonderland, Mammoth is home to the third most popular ski mountain in the U.S. after Vail and Breckenridge. Forget about California concrete — that heavy, wet, gloopy snow associated with other parts of the Golden State.

Mammoth's pillow-y white stuff is as fluffy and cuddly as the Ice Age flicks. The mountain tends to get covered in a lighter snow owing to its 11,000-foot elevation, and because it's predominantly north-facing, the snowpack stays fresher longer, allowing for an extended season. The mountain has stayed open as late as July 4.

Intermediate skiers keen to climb to the summit for a sick 360-degree view of alpine peaks and indelible white-



Mammoth Mountain's 11,000-foot elevation guarantees plenty of fluffy white powder. TERRY BARENTSEN

Sky high

Keep the adrenalin pumping by jumping off a 300-foot cliff at Torrey Pines Gliderport. Tethered to a giant kite, you'll soar like an eagle over Black's Beach and one of Cali's most storied golf courses. Tandem paraglides with a USHPA-certified instructor are \$175 and be sure to get there a little early to sign and initial a sheaf of paperwork about as thick as a small-town phone book.

capped minarets are in luck. Exit the mountain-topping Panorama Gondola and peel right toward the blue square-rated Upper Road Runner, a leisurely three-mile-long cat track that offers plenty of scenic vistas as it winds its way back down to Main Lodge.



If ski and surf aren't enough, try paragliding over Black's Beach. TERRY BARENTSEN

Stay: Steps from the village and a gondola to the slopes, the Westin Monache Resort puts you in the heart of Mammoth. Plus, the breathtaking Mountain view from the outdoor hot tubs doesn't hurt.

Après-ski

For a taste of Cali-style barbecue, line up for a table at The Smokeyard BBQ & Chop Shop in Mammoth village. The shop is ostensibly a purveyor of smoky, finger-licking carniv-

orous delights; their brontosaurus-sized beef ribs will lull you into a Flinstonian meat coma. But outside an array of slow-cooked animal-flesh options are a couple unexpected menu items that shout out to the South African proprietors' culinary heritage. There's a mildly spiced durban curry as well as potjiekos (a popular Rainbow Nation stew) on offer. Next, toast to the high altitude lifestyle with a brew or two from Mammoth Brewing Company. Sip on a Fire & Eisbock, practically Mammoth in a bottle. Lava rocks heated up under an open fire dropped into the boil lend it a caramelized flavour and post-fermentation freeze distillation amps up the alcohol content.

Some like it hot

San Diego's 90 kilometres of sun-kissed playa has something for both beach bums and adventurers. For communing with bohemians and the dazed and confused set, head to Ocean Beach. For a wave-riding initiation, La Jolla Shores is the place. The scenic cliffs and caves block south swells, creating a protected bay for most of the year. Even if your idea of hanging 10 is holding onto the rim of a basketball hoop, the vivacious and confidence-instilling instructors at Surf Diva (2160 Avenida de la Playa) will have you up and riding in no time. Private one-hour surf lessons can be had for \$93.50 or \$99 for Stand Up Paddleboarding, with lower per-person rates for small groups.

Après-surf

Recap the day's exploits while sipping on something at Hard Rock Hotel San Diego's rooftop bar FLOAT, a posh lounge with firepits and cocktail waitresses in outfits snatched from Jessie J's closet.

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How-to

Plan a romantic getaway without leaving town

1. Keep plans to yourself — before and after. This is part of the fun.
2. Search online for Valentine packages in hotels in your own city.
3. With the help of the hotel concierge, add candy, flowers, etc. to taste.
4. Email your spouse an invitation, leaving out all the details except the date, time and a few pointers on what to pack.
5. Make a dinner reservation at a place neither have you ever been to.
6. Book an Uber cab and go with the town car.
7. Cross your fingers that your spouse doesn't think you're heading for the airport.

DOUG WALLACE/METRO

Deal

Island getaways 20 per cent off

Intrepid Travel is offering 20 per cent off a few of its top Island Getaways, until Feb. 28 for travel through April 30. Just in time for spring break, these small-group trips could see you in Belize, Bali, Sri Lanka or Galapagos, or sailing through the Greek islands or along Italy's Amalfi Coast. Save almost \$1,000 on the 10-day Complete Galapagos adventure, departing March 23. Visit IntrepidTravel.com. DOUG WALLACE/METRO



Splurge

Uxua Casa Hotel & Spa Bahia, Brazil

This beach-side spot was named Best Hotel in the World by Smith Hotels, the leading curator of saucy weekends away. A 90-minute flight from Rio, the Uxua Casa is casual, rustic, modern and luxe — all at the same time. Ten private casas have all the comforts of home without losing the "barefoot chic" factor. The village of Transcoso, a hippie favourite in the '70s, is within walking distance. From \$600 per night. Search at SmithHotels.com. DOUG WALLACE/METRO



Bucket list

Sleep in an African tree house

Candlelit dinner in your treetop penthouse? Your six-night adventure includes four nights in Sabi Sands River Lodge in Kruger National Park, one of Africa's largest protected wildlife reserves, plus two nights in Cape Town at Cape Cadogan Boutique Hotel. The package takes care of all meals and drinks, along with bushwalks and safari drives. From \$7,500. Airfare not included. Visit TrulyExperiences.com. DOUG WALLACE/METRO



The ghost towns of the American southwest

Tour. Explore the crumbling communities left behind by the mining bust of the Old West

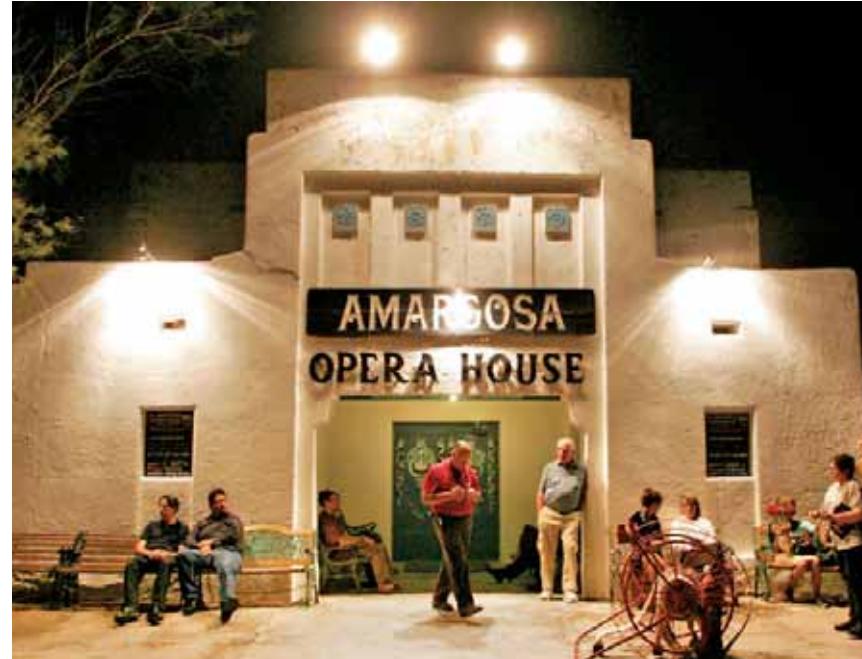
The Amargosa Hotel in Death Valley Junction, Calif., was once a hub of activity, the Spanish Colonial-style buildings filled with workers from the Pacific Coast Borax company.

Once the mine shut down, the people left, leaving the U-shaped hotel and the opera house attached to it at the centre of what is now considered a ghost town. "There wasn't much reason for people to stick around, other than to stay at the hotel or visit the opera house," the Amargosa's Bob Muldowney said during a tour of the opera house. "Now, that's all that's left."

Death Valley Junction wasn't the only town to feel the boom and bust of the Old West mining days. Ghost towns dot the landscape across the southwestern U.S., once-thriving cultural hubs abandoned and left in shambles. Many are still fairly well-preserved, though, and offer visitors a chance to see a piece of history — even if it is in pieces.

Bodie, Calif.

Located near the Nevada state line east of California's Yosemite National Park, Bodie is one of the most famous ghost towns in the United States, in part because it's so well preserved. The town boomed during the Gold Rush, with an estimated 10,000 residents in 1880, more than 60 saloons and a red-light district. Once the mine shut down, so did the town, all but abandoned by the early 1900s. Today, its 100-or-so buildings are main-



The restored Amargosa Opera House helps Death Valley Junction, Calif., remain a tourist draw. PHOTOS: THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

tained by the California parks system, which protects the town in "an arrested state of decay," keeping the buildings standing but making few other alterations. Bodie is located 21 kilometres off Highway 395 down a dusty, bumpy road in an isolated area, so make sure you have plenty of gas. Also, beware if you take off with an artifact from town — a curse reportedly comes with it until the item is returned.

Gleeson, Ariz.

Originally called Turquoise, Gleeson is one of several ghost towns near the famous Wild West town of Tombstone. Native Americans first mined turquoise in the area and settlers found copper, lead and silver in the area in the late 1800s. A fire destroyed 28 buildings in 1912, but the town was rebuilt and continued to thrive until

the mines shut down around 1940. A handful of people still live in the area, but it has the ghost-town feel, with numerous buildings in various states of decay. Ruins include a hospital, saloon, store, jail, and cemetery. Courtland and Pearce are nearby, part of what is known as the Ghost Town Trail.

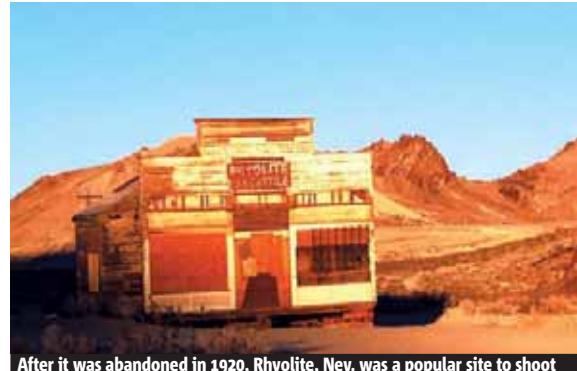
Rhyolite, Nev.

If you like decrepit buildings in your ghost town, this is the place to visit. Located northeast of Death Valley National Park, Rhyolite was established in 1905 during the Gold Rush and grew quickly, filled with buildings that had electricity, water mains, an opera house and a stock exchange. It fell apart nearly as fast; the mine closed in 1911 and the town was all but abandoned by 1920. Since then, it has become one of the most photogenic ghost towns

in the West because of the crumpled buildings and the impressive rocky landscape. The town became a popular site for movies and some of the buildings were further destroyed during shooting. Among the ruins are the Bottle House, walls from the three-story bank building, part of the jail and an old caboose.

Death Valley Junction, Calif.

The town near the eastern entrance of Death Valley National Park thrived while the borax mine and Death Valley Railroad were in operation. By the late 1920s, Death Valley Junction was little more than a tourist stop on the way to the park. The town is still a draw, thanks to the Amargosa Hotel. The hotel claims to be haunted and the Amargosa Opera House is a must-see. Marta Becket, a former Broadway bal-



After it was abandoned in 1920, Rhyolite, Nev. was a popular site to shoot films.



Goldfield, Ariz., is a more touristy version of the southwest ghost town.

Goldfield, Ariz.

If you're into touristic ghost towns, Goldfield is the place to visit. Located in Apache Junction just outside Phoenix, it became a bustling town when gold was discovered in the 1890s. Goldfield had about 4,000 residents, a general store, post office, school and hotel in its heyday, but was all but abandoned after the gold

vein dried up in the 1920s. Today, the town has become a popular tourist attraction, with daily Old West gunfights, gold panning and rides on Arizona's only narrow-gauge train. Numerous tours are available, including through the Goldfield Mine, Lu Lu's Bordello, the Mystery Shack and the Goldfield Historic Museum.

in front of an audience. The opera house still has performances today, typically with local performers on Saturday nights. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Valentine's Day getaways



Victoria, B.C. was voted the most romantic city in Canada in 2013 by Amazon.ca users. iSTOCK

Love is in the air at these destinations



ON THE MOVE
Loren Christie
life@metronews.ca

Looking to do more than give your sweetheart a dozen roses this Valentine's Day? There are plenty of options across the country for a last-minute romantic getaway.

Victoria, B.C., was voted the Most Romantic City in Canada in 2013 by Amazon.ca and third in the Top Ten Most Romantic North America Getaways in 2014. Stroll along Government Street, where the trees are wrapped in pink and red fairy lights, enjoy a candlelit dinner overlooking the inner harbour or hide away for a night at the Inn at Laurel Point. In addition to a number of romance themed hotel packages for guests, the entire staff have undergone Month of Love training sessions, ensuring they are immersed in the

Valentine's Day spirit and ready to share their favourite romantic moments, movies and quotes.

Skating hand-in-hand along Ottawa's Rideau Canal skate way is the perfect outdoor romantic activity. Follow that with a soak in the hot pools and a visit to the steam rooms and saunas of the Nordik Nature Spa in nearby Chelsea, Québec. Ottawa Tourism's Winterlude Amour package includes two nights' accommodation at a variety of hotels, shopping discounts at the downtown Rideau Centre and optional passes to a variety of museums, spa treatments or a chocolate lover's tour of the ByWard Market neighbourhood with C'est Bon Epicurean Adventures.

If you find yourself in Banff, Alta. on Feb. 14, take your special someone to the Cave and Basin National Historic Site. A brand new outdoor skating rink is opening on the grounds just in time for the big day. Sweep your sweetie off his or her feet with an evening of skating under the moonlight accompanied by music and old-time movies and surrounded by the splendour of the Rocky Mountains.

Stay in. Ward off the chill by trying out some of these indoor activities in the Carnaval community



ANDREW JOHN
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No other centre in Canada celebrates winter quite like Quebec City, with pristine snow coating the landscape, giving the appearance everything is all tucked away in a snow globe.

It's a city known for being downright frigid, but luckily there's ample opportunity to rest and relax in wondrous warmth.

Plant yourself in Old Quebec at the toasty warm boutique property Hotel 71, located in the building that was once the National Bank of Canada's first head office. The building's facade is a stunning example of 19th century neo-classic architecture while its interior features 60 contemporary rooms and suites. Peek outside for views of the mighty St. Lawrence River.

The Fairmont Le Château Frontenac is the city's iconic castle, which has recently undergone a \$74-million renovation.

Your best bet for a sip and nibble is at 1608 Wine and Cheese Bar, featuring one of the largest varieties of top Quebec fromage in Canada, from their very own gilded Cheese Room.

The bar features a dazzling chandelier show, stuffed Canada geese which appear to fly out of the wall, and an



The Fairmont Le Château Frontenac has a wine and cheese bar featuring one of the largest varieties of Quebec cheese in Canada. ANDREW DOBSON/METRO

eclectic selection of furniture which makes one want to cosy up to the fireplace, crack open a book and cuddle with a cocktail.

Located along the St. Lawrence River at Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré, Spa des Neiges offers a relaxing and memorable stay for those who enjoy the great outdoors.

This Nordic-inspired spa offers three outdoor thermal baths, sauna, steam room, teepees and relaxation rooms with a view. I'll never forget moving off my massage table like a zombie, pulling on a white robe and flip-flops and marching into the winter's cold to bob up and down in a steaming al fresco bath!

You haven't been to Que-

Come to Carnaval!

- Cheer for the chilly at Quebec's 61st annual Carnaval, North America's most popular winter festival, which runs till Feb. 15. Wave hello to the festival's iconic mascot Bonhomme and sip hot cocoa while touring his awe-inspiring ice castle. Game of Thrones fans will notice a special treat at the festival this year as HBO Canada commissioned local ice sculptor Marc Lepine to replicate the show's iconic Iron Throne out of ice. The Iron Throne was unveiled on the eve of the festival and marks the official launch of the show's fourth season on Blu-ray and DVD, available across Canada on Feb. 17.

bec unless you've taken a moment to pause over a steaming bowl of poutine.

Leave your calorie counter at the door and step into the Chic Shack. The trendy restaurant offers local craft beer

and divine gelato mixed milkshakes which pair perfectly with poutine.

Enjoy a classic with gravy and curds or switch it up with Coq Au Vin and Mushroom Ragout inspired indulgences.

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Finding an inclusive work environment

Career. How to know if an employer is welcoming towards individuals with disabilities

CAROLINE RUDOLPH-ZBARSKY
TalentEgg.ca

Getting a job if you have a disability can be easier than you might think if you know where to look.

Today, companies want to be more inclusive of the Canadian workforce and more reflective of the customers that they serve.

My experience as an employment specialist has shown me that companies often don't know where to go to find diverse talent. Recent graduates with disabilities are often afraid to apply for their ideal positions for fear of discrimination through the recruitment process without realizing those employers may be seeking someone with precisely their profile. Below are a few tips for finding employers committed to recruiting and retaining diverse talent.

Diversity and Inclusion (D&I) partnerships

Identifying employers that sponsor, partner with and/or support organizations and associations committed to D&I is one way to know if an employer is inclusive. Such employers typically have a culture that is open, accommodating, and values diversity. Research which employers support these efforts.

There are numerous major Canadian D&I organizations worth checking out.

Here are some of my favourites:

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Major conferences and job fairs

Participation and support of diversity and inclusion events are great indicators of the level of inclusiveness at a particular company. Companies attend these events because it is important to their values.

to promote inclusion at their organizations. At conferences and seminars advocating for inclusive practices you can connect with employers, who support these initiatives.

- At recruiting sessions, they are looking for diverse talent. Here you can meet and network with individuals responsible for recruitment initiatives

• The Canadian Centre for Diversity and Inclusion (CCDI): This organization provides tools and support to employers looking to become more inclusive.

• The Job Opportunity Information Network (JOIN): With more than 60 employer partners, their Business Leadership Network consists of more than 30 employers who are committed to promoting the hiring of persons with disabilities.

• Canadian Business SenseAbility: A national organization run by private-sector business leaders aiming to accelerate business success through the talents of persons with disabilities.

The Google test

When evaluating a company's commitment to D&I, start with a simple online search, which can be surprisingly effective.

Companies aren't shy about communicating and promoting their values: They want clients, staff, prospective employees and stakeholders to know their organizational beliefs, goals and

commitments.

When attracting the best talent, they want to demonstrate why they are an employer of choice. It's also good for business; people prefer to deal with companies with good cultures and core values.

Searching for the employer 'name + diversity + Canada' gives a pretty good overview of their commitment level.

Check their website to see if they have a diversity section, learn about their inclusive practices, what causes they support and their current initiatives.

Companies that support inclusive hiring will make an effort to highlight this on a diversity page.

Are they award-winning?

To be recognized with an award, companies must be doing a few things right. Numerous organizations recognize the efforts of employers who are making an impact with their diversity and inclusion practices.

The two following awards are to me the more prestigious out there. Take a look at the lists and see which employers have won awards and



With the right employer, you can find a perfect fit, including accommodations in both the infrastructure and the workplace culture itself. ISTOCK

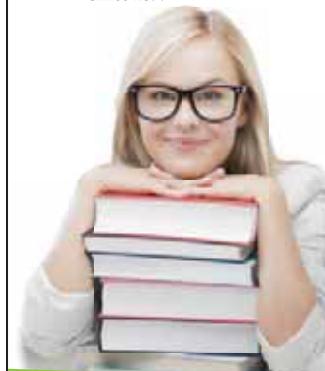
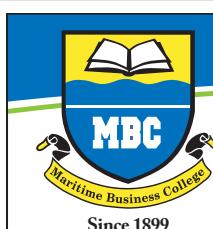
why.

The Canada's Best Diversity Employers list recognizes Canadian employers with "exceptional workplace diversity and inclusiveness programs." The 100 winning employers (all in Canada) are a strong core of more than 3,500 companies that participated in the competition.

Both the DiversityInc Top 50 List and the DiversityInc Top 10 Companies For People With Disabilities are a rich database of inclusive global companies with operations in Canada.

Their ranking mechanism is quite detailed, including

factors such as inclusiveness of their career application process, the level of on-the-job accommodations offered, their focus on working with vendors owned by persons with disabilities and the presence of certain benefits such as telecommuting and employee resource groups.



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Kale shows off hearty side in soup

Dinner. The green that is typically thrown into smoothies or salads is the star in this warming dish that also features potatoes and sausage



DINNER
EXPRESS
Emily Richards
food@metronews.ca

FLASH FOOD



From your fridge to your table in about 30 minutes

The month of February is the perfect time to enjoy some great sports and, of course, delicious food.

Even though football has died down, basketball and hockey are holding strong, along with curling and the golf tournaments that make me wish for warmer weather.

So as I was thinking about all these hard-working athletes and what I would cook for them, my mind went to a winter warm-up recipe in which soup grabs the spotlight.

I'm convinced soup would hit the spot for many athletes and sport watchers alike.

So here is a great winter warm-up soup that is easy to serve to your family for a weeknight meal or to friends when they come over to watch the game. It also works well for a lunchtime meal.

This soup has a rich broth full of sausage, potatoes and greens that add fibre and a hearty taste.



This Chunky Sausage and Kale Soup recipe serves six to eight. EMILY RICHARDS

Directions

1. In large soup pot, heat oil over medium-high heat and brown sausages on all sides. Remove to cutting board, cut into slices and return to pot.

2. Add onions, carrot, celery and garlic and cook, stirring for about 5 minutes or until softened. Add potatoes and stock. Bring to boil, cover and reduce heat and simmer for

about 15 minutes or until potatoes are tender when pierced with fork.

3. Meanwhile, chop kale and Swiss chard to make

about 12 cups (3 litres) of lightly packed greens. Add to sausage mixture and simmer uncovered for about 15 minutes or until greens are tender.

Ingredients

- 1 tbsp (15 ml) extra virgin olive oil
- 1 lb (500 g) fresh chorizo, Italian, farmer's or chicken sausages
- 2 onions, chopped

- 1 each carrot and celery stalk, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 4 Yukon Gold potatoes, (about

- 1 1/2 lbs/750 g) peeled and chopped
- 10 cups (2.5 l) low-sodium beef stock
- 1 small bunch kale, with the tough

- ribs removed
- Half bunch Swiss chard, trimmed

Cheese adds a nice flavour to this simple soup.

ISTOCK



This recipe serves four. MATTHEW MEAD/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Clams, croutons and broth – oh, my!

1. Heat the oven to 350 F. Line a rimmed baking sheet with kitchen parchment or foil.

2. Arrange bread cubes on the prepared baking sheet, then mist with olive oil, tossing to coat all sides. Sprinkle with salt and pepper, then toast in the oven until golden, about 10 minutes, stirring halfway through. Remove croutons from oven and allow to cool.

3. Meanwhile, make soup. In a large, heavy saucepan or Dutch oven over medium heat, melt the butter. Add the shallots and cook, stirring often, until soft, about 5 minutes. Crumble the

soy chorizo and add to the pot. Cook until lightly golden, about another 5 minutes. Add the garlic and cook another minute, or until very fragrant.

4. Sprinkle with flour, then stir. Increase heat to medium-high and add the wine, stirring constantly for about 1 minute to deglaze the pan. Add the chicken stock and water, then bring to a simmer. Taste and season with salt and pepper, as needed.

5. Stir in the kale, then gently add the clams. Cover the pot and let the clams steam just until they open, about 4 minutes, removing the clams

as they open and discarding any that don't. Remove the pot from heat and stir in the opened clams. Stir in the lemon juice, then ladle into serving

Ingredients

- 3 slices French or Italian bread, cut into 1-inch cubes
- Olive oil cooking spray
- Salt and ground black pepper
- 3 tbsp butter
- 4 shallots, sliced
- 1/2 lbs soy chorizo sausage, casings removed (if any)
- 2 lbs fresh clams, scrubbed
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tsp all-purpose flour
- 2/3 cup dry white wine
- 2 1/2 cups low-sodium chicken stock
- 1/2 cup water
- 3/4 bunch kale, stems discarded, chopped (about 1 1/2 cups)
- 1 tbsp lemon juice
- 1/2 cup chopped fresh parsley

Hockey

Don and Ron to make appearances at Scotiabank Centre

Don and Ron will be in the Halifax Mooseheads' house Saturday night.

Hockey Night in Canada broadcasters Don Cherry and Ron McLean are set to drop the puck for Halifax's match-up against provincial rivals the Cape Breton Screaming Eagles, as part of pre-game ceremonies at the Scotiabank Centre.

Saturday's game, and Friday night's home game against the Shawinigan Cataractes, will air live nationally on Sportsnet, both starting at 8 p.m. AT, as part of Hockey Day in Canada celebrations in Halifax this year.

The annual event kicks off Wednesday evening, with Mooseheads general manager Cam Russell and majority owner Bobby Smith participating in an NHL alumni shinny game at the Halifax Forum, starting at 6 p.m.

Herd rookie Brett Crossley and his Cole Harbour family will be featured Saturday on Hockey Day in Canada programming. MacLean will also visit Cole Harbour on Sunday, as part of the Rogers Hometown Hockey Tour. METRO

Health the focus of symposium next month

Health and hockey professionals will put their heads together at a new symposium next month in Halifax.

The inaugural Hockey Health Symposium takes place March 13 at the World Trade and Convention Centre, as part of the Canadian Interuniversity Sport men's hockey championship week.

"The value of exercise, injury prevention, proper equipment and effective nutrition will be discussed by international experts," orthopaedic surgeon Dr. William Stanish said in a news release Tuesday, adding there will also be a panel dedicated to discussing concussions.

The 2015 University Cup is set for March 12 to 15 at the Scotiabank Centre. METRO

Full Steve ahead as Huskies lead series

AUS hockey.

Saint Mary's top line accounts for both goals in Game 1 vs. Moncton



KRISTEN LIPSCOMBE

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The three Steves had some tricks up their maroon-and-white sleeves to kick off their first-round AUS playoff series.

Stephen Johnston scored twice for the Saint Mary's Huskies in a 2-0 win over the Moncton Aigles Bleus on Tuesday night. Both goals were assisted by Steven Beyers and Steven Shipley, in front of 892 fans at the Halifax Forum.

"This is a new thing," Johnston said of the successful line combination, which led the Huskies to a 1-0 lead in the best-of-three-game series. "Tonight, it worked out well."

Johnston's first goal came just 54 seconds into the game with Beyers feeding the puck high in the offensive zone to Shipley, who "found me with a great pass, back-door."

Not long into the middle frame the Steves connected again "and I just put it backhand on net," Johnston said of extending the lead to two goals. "Luckily, it got high enough to go over the goalie's shoulder."

Fourth-year forward Johnston, 24, is the oldest Steve on the Saint Mary's roster, but he's just one of five.

In addition to Beyers and Shipley, both 22, there's also defenceman Stephen Gillard, 23, and forward Stephen MacAulay, 22, who are all in their second year of Huskies hockey.

"In practice, coach will be yelling 'Steve,' and the whole team's looking," Johnston said.



Saint Mary's Huskies forward Stephen Johnston fires a shot on the net past Moncton Aigles Bleus defenceman Victor Beaulac during Atlantic University Sport playoff action Tuesday night at the Halifax Forum. JEFF HARPER/METRO

with a chuckle after the game.

So it's a good thing the guys mostly stick to last names, along with occasional nicknames, with Johnston often shortened to "Johnny."

Gillard goes by "Gilly," Shipley by "Shippy," MacAulay by "Bird" and Beyers, well, "he's sometimes called Scuba," — as in, "Scuba Steve."

While the Huskies share plenty of laughs off-ice, Johnston said they weren't satisfied with their on-ice performance Tuesday.

"I don't think it was our strongest effort," the Windsor Spitfires alumnus from Guelph, Ont., said. "But in playoffs, we'll

Playoff series

The remaining game(s) between Saint Mary's and Moncton:

- Game 2 — Thursday at Moncton, 7 p.m.
- Game 3 — Saturday at Saint Mary's, 7 p.m. (if necessary)

tender Anthony Peters made 34 saves to hold onto the shutout.

"If we didn't have Petey back there, they could have come out of here with the win," Johnston said.

Peters said the win, not the shutout, "is the most important thing."

The fourth-year veteran agreed the Huskies will have to step it up to prevail over the Aigles Bleus.

"They played great tonight," Peters added of the Stevie-wonder line.

"Everyone's been hungry here going into the playoffs, and we've got to be ready for Game 2."



Canadiens goalie Carey Price makes a save on the Flyers' Vincent Lecavalier on Tuesday in Montreal. PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL. Habs ground Flyers with Desharnais' OT goal

David Desharnais scored in overtime to lead the Canadiens to a 2-1 victory over the visiting Philadelphia Flyers on Tuesday, extending Montreal's win streak to three games.

Tomas Plekanec scored for the Canadiens (35-15-3) in regulation time. Price stopped 23 of 24 shots for his 30th win of the season.

Matt Read scored for the Flyers (23-22-9). Ray Emery, who is replacing the injured Steve Mason, made 39 saves in defeat.

Desharnais scored the winner at 3:27 of overtime after scooping his own rebound over Emery's shoulder.

The win propelled Montreal to the top of the Eastern Conference. THE CANADIAN PRESS

4
SPORTS

2015 GMC Yukon

- Type.** Four-door, seven- or eight-passenger full-size SUV
- Engines.** 5.3-litre V8 (355 hp), 6.2-litre V8 (420)
- Transmissions.** 6- or 8-speed automatic
- Price.** \$51,850 base, \$64,900 as-tested

Market position

GM says that one out of every three full-size, truck-based SUVs sold in Canada is a Yukon or Denali. In this limited segment, only the domestics offer two wheelbase lengths or a choice of engines.

Points

- The eight-speed transmission in the Denali is expected to make its way to other Yukon models eventually.
- The Denali includes an air-levelling suspension system and Magnetic Ride Control, which almost instantly tightens or softens the ride to match road conditions.
- Alert system warns about forward traffic or lane departure by vibrating the seat.



The first two rows are roomy, but the third row is very cramped.

Interesting features

Rear-view camera, oil and transmission cooler, front and rear park assist, rain-sensing wipers and remote starter are all standard; heated and cooled seats, power-folding third-row seat, adaptive cruise control, a rear-seat entertainment system, and power liftgate are all optional.

Do you want big, or bigger?



PHOTOS: JIL MCINTOSH

Review. GMC Yukon offers two wheelbase lengths and seating for eight, but is still light and nimble to drive

JIL
MCINTOSH
drive@metronews.ca

Although the full-size SUV segment is not as large as it once was, the remaining players are as big as ever.

The all-new 2015 GMC Yukon is available in two "big and bigger" wheelbase lengths, and with seating for up to eight people.

It's based on the GMC Sierra pickup that was com-

pletely overhauled for 2014, although it doesn't share any of that truck's exterior panels.

The base SLE trim line and my tester, the SLT, use the Sierra's 5.3-litre V8 engine and come in two-wheel drive, or, as in my vehicle, four-wheel drive.

Pricing ranges from \$51,850 to \$64,900. You can also get a luxurious top-line Denali trim, which uses a 6.2-litre V8 and comes only as a 4x4, for \$74,600.

My tester was the regular-wheelbase model, but you can also get the extended-length Yukon XL in all trim lines, which adds \$3,050 to the price of each.

All Yukon models have three rows of seats, but the



The interior is as well-finished as you'd expect for the price, with simple controls.

XL gives you more legroom and extra cargo space behind the third row.

For all its size, the Yukon doesn't feel as big as it is when you're driving it, thanks to light steering and

quick response.

When full power isn't needed, such as when you're cruising at a steady speed, the engine shuts off half its cylinders to save gas. It happens so seamlessly that you

usually have to depend on the display in the instrument cluster to tell you when it's only feeding fuel to four cylinders.

The interior is as well-finished as you'd expect for the price, with simple controls that are easy to use.

The first and second rows are roomy, but the third row is perched over the rear axle and, as a result, there's very little room for your knees and the seating position isn't very comfortable.

For those who prefer the Chevrolet nameplate, the Tahoe and longer-wheelbase Suburban are mechanically identical to the Yukon, but have differences in their trim packages and lower starting prices.

5 DRIVE

Shift: Feats in engineering promise greater mobility, increased fuel efficiency and incomparable style

Detroit electric sports car still at least a year away

Wannabe electric sports car manufacturer Detroit Electric has revealed its Lotus Evora-based SP:01 model in production trim, but says the vehicle won't be available until sometime in 2016, pending further testing. Production is set to take place in the United Kingdom, reports MotorAuthority, and the first models should roll off the production line later this year. Markets confirmed to date include the United States, Europe and Asia. Propulsion comes from a single electric motor rated at 285 horsepower with drive sent to the rear wheels only. Buyers can expect a zero-to-96 km/h time of 3.7 seconds, a top speed of 250 km/h and a driving range per charge of about 290 kilometres.

ALL STORIES AND PHOTOS FROM WHEELBASEMEDIA.COM

This is the production version of the Detroit Electric SP:01, but it's more than a year away.



Tiny Spira4u seeks global markets

Pilot production is underway in China for the electric- and gasoline-powered sub-subcompact Spira4u three-wheel urban vehicle, which marketers hope to bring to North America. Conceived as a low-cost (to make, own and operate) and hyper-economical vehicle, the Spira4u is an Automotive XPrize finalist and a cross between a car and a motorcycle. Its soft, honeycomb-composite structure protects up to two occupants in a collision, and the body from significant damage in parking lot fender-benders. The \$6,200 gas-powered model delivers a top speed of 85 km/h and fuel efficiency of 2.9 L/100 km. The electric version reaches 100 km/h and goes 450 km per charge with one motor. A much faster two-motor model is also available.



The Spira4u is a bumper car that can shrug off light collisions. Made in China, the three-wheeler may be coming to North America soon.

Shift points

- Israeli company Storedot says it is a year away from marketing an electric-car battery that can be fully recharged in three minutes. If true and even remotely affordable, it would revolutionize the EV industry, putting it on equal refuel footing with gas engines.
- Johnson Controls says it has developed a small lithium-ion battery for use in vehicle stop-start systems, reports Automotive News. About the size of a tissue box and weighing just four kilograms, it can double current stop-start efficiency to eight per cent.
- Mazda says its 2016 MX-5 will be the first vehicle to incorporate parts made from a new bio-plastic it developed. The plastic is based on plant materials instead of petroleum, and does not require painting.



Honda seeks energy efficiency from wind power

Honda has unveiled a wind farm in Brazil that generates enough electricity to meet the needs of its car-production plant in the state of Rio Grande do Sul, in southernmost Brazil. Honda says it is the first automaker to open a wind farm in that country, and expects the facility to generate all the electricity needed for its annual production, currently about 140,000 units, reports Green Car Reports. Honda has experimented with wind power before, installing turbines at its transmission plant in Ohio, although on a much smaller scale. The \$47-million Brazil project is part of Honda's goal to cut its overall carbon-dioxide emissions by 30 per cent by 2020.

Hyundai's Tucson hydrogen-powered fuel-cell CUV coming soon to Canada

Hyundai says it will be the first automotive company to make hydrogen-fuel-cell electric vehicles available in Canada, and has launched a dedicated website to find the first Canadian customer. The Tucson fuel-cell electric will be available to customers on a three-year-lease, starting this spring in the Vancouver area. "We're planting the seed for a new segment of the industry," said Hyundai Canada CEO Don Romano. The challenge facing hydrogen-powered vehicles, he said, has been characterized by a chicken-and-egg scenario "where car companies won't bring fuel-cell vehicles to market without an infrastructure, and there is no need for a refuelling industry without customers." In fuel-cell vehicles, hydrogen is converted to electricity to power electric drive motors. A fill-up takes about five minutes.

Kenguru EV hops on mobility bandwagon

Promising wheelchair-bound travellers a level of personal mobility never before possible, the first drive-from-wheelchair electric vehicle is under production in Pflugerville, Tex. The single-occupant Kenguru has a lone rear door that is operated by remote control, allowing the driver to wheel in, strap in, take control of the vehicle and, within seconds, be good to go. Designed more for urban areas than the open road, the 550-kilogram Hungarian-designed Kenguru is powered by two rear-axle electric motors, has a top speed of 50 km/h and a range of 70 to 110 kilometres per charge. It sells for about \$31,000, before applying any electric-vehicle or mobility assistance funding that might be available in the buyer's jurisdiction.



Just drive in, lock down and drive off. Designed for drivers in a wheelchair, the Kenguru has a top speed of 50 km/h and a range of up to 110 km. It sells for about \$31,000.



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Wise customers read the fine print: *Q, -, *, †, ‡, =, §* The It's Showtime Sales Event offers are limited time offers which apply to retail deliveries of selected in-stock new and unused models purchased/leased from participating retailers on or after February 3, 2015. Offers subject to change and may be extended or changed without notice. All pricing excludes freight (\$1,695), air-conditioning charge, licence, insurance, registration, any retailer administration fees, other retailer charges and other applicable fees and taxes. Financing and lease offers available to qualified customers on approved credit. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Retailer may sell for less. (\$9,500 in Total Discounts is available on new 2015 Ram 1500 models (excluding Reg Cab) and consists of \$8,000 in Consumer Cash Discounts and \$1,500 in Ram Truck Loyalty/Conquest Bonus Cash. See your retailer for complete details. =\$1,500 Ram Truck Loyalty/Conquest/Skilled Trades Bonus Cash is available on the retail purchase/lease of 2014/2015 Ram 1500 (excludes Regular Cab), 2014 Ram 2500/3500, 2014 Ram ProMaster or 2014 Ram Cargo Van and is deducted from the negotiated price after taxes. Eligible customers include: 1. Current owners/lessees of a Dodge or Ram Pickup Truck or Large Van or any other manufacturer's Pickup Truck or Large Van. The vehicle must have been owned/leased by the eligible customer and registered in their name on or before February 1, 2015. Proof of ownership/lease agreement will be required. 2. Customers who are skilled tradesmen or are acquiring a skilled trade. This includes Licensed Tradesmen, Certified Journeymen or customers who have completed an Apprenticeship Certification. A copy of the Trade Licence/Certification required. 3. Customers who are Baumeier Approved service providers. Proof of membership is required. Limit one \$1,500 bonus cash offer per eligible truck transaction. Some conditions apply. See your retailer for complete details. *Consumer Cash Discounts are deducted from the negotiated price before taxes. †3.49% purchase financing for up to 96 months available on new select models through RBC, Scotiabank and TD Auto Finance. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Examples: 2015 Ram 1500 Crew Cab 4x4 SXT (25A+AGR+XHF)/2015 Dodge Grand Caravan Canada Value Package/2015 Dodge Journey Canada Value Package/2015 Chrysler 200 LX with a Purchase Price of \$29,949/\$18,995/\$18,495/\$18,495 with a \$0 down payment, financed at 3.49% for 96 months equals 208 bi-weekly payments of \$165/\$105/\$102/\$102 with a cost of borrowing of \$4,418/\$2,802/\$2,729/\$2,729 and a total obligation of \$34,367.43/\$21,797.36/\$21,223.60/\$21,223.60. 10% purchase financing for up to 36 months available on new 2015 Jeep Cherokee models to qualified customers on approved credit through RBC, Scotiabank and TD Auto Finance. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Example: 2015 Jeep Cherokee Sport 4x2 (24A) with a Purchase Price of \$22,995 with a \$0 down payment, financed at 0% for 36 months equals 78 bi-weekly payments of \$295 with a cost of borrowing of \$0 and a total obligation of \$22,995. =Non-prime financing available on approved credit. 4.99% financing available on approved credit. 4.99% financing available on 2015 Ram 1500 Quad 4x4 SXT/2015 Chrysler 200 LX/2015 Jeep Patriot Sport 4x2. 6.99% financing available on select 2015 models. Financing examples: 2015 Ram 1500 Quad 4x4 SXT/2015 Dodge Grand Caravan Canada Value Package with a Purchase Price of \$26,495/\$18,995 financed at 4.99%/6.99% over 84 months, equals 182 bi-weekly payments of \$173/\$132 for a total finance obligation of \$31,445.69/\$24,073.78. Some conditions apply. See your retailer for complete details. [§]Starting From Prices for vehicles shown include Consumer Cash Discounts and do not include upgrades (e.g., paint). Upgrades available for additional cost. [¶]Based on 2014 Ward's Middle Cross Utility segmentation. [^]Based on IHS Automotive: Polk Canadian Vehicles in Operation data available as of July, 2014 for Crossover Segments as defined by Chrysler Canada Inc. ^{**}Based on 2014 Ward's Lower Middle Sedan segmentation. Based on MSRP of base models. Excludes other vehicles designed and manufactured by FCA US LLC. [†]Jeep is a registered trademark of FCA US LLC used under license by Chrysler Canada Inc. [‡]The SiriusXM logo is a registered trademark of SiriusXM Satellite Radio Inc.



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What test car is Garry bringing us this week? We literally have no clue what will roll into the driveway until it's here, but who are we to doubt Garry Sowerby, who has a bazillion Guinness records for around-the-world driving? That's a bazillion more than we have, after all. Come along and find out as we drive 'em, dirty 'em and shoot 'em with our phone cams. These are real-life, no-glam reviews.

JEFF MELNYCHUK
wheelbasemedia.com

Sporty and fun – all year round

Special delivery. You may look nuts driving it in the winter, but the Audi TT-S is even more fun on ice and snow, when grip is limited

We don't ask where world-record road-tripper Garry Sowerby has been since we saw him last, because it makes us jealous — and also so the authorities can't brainwash it out of us. It's safer for everyone, really.

But, for whatever reason, he always seems to bring me the coolest cars in the worst possible weather.

Case in point: Garry slides up in a shiny Imola Yellow Audi TT-S, and it has been the messiest and slipperiest stretch of crap weather we've had so far in this miserable winter.

I hate winter.

Can you tell?

But even normal people who are not Garry don't get why the TT is here, now.

"Do they not know where we live?" says a buddy from my gym who spies it in the parking lot.

I don't think Audi cares. The cars are made of metal, not sugar. It doesn't matter what time of year it is or what's under the tires.

My personal car is an Audi R8 and, with the right tires, it could be driven year-round, no problem.

So, while everyone else thinks Audi is nuts — and, by association, that I'm nuts for driving one in this weather — I don't care, either.

The Quattro all-wheel drive makes the TT-S formidable and fun in all seasons, especially in this icy junk, where the limits of grip are so



With the right tires, the Audi TT-S is formidable and fun in all seasons. It is not a summer-only car, nor should it be for a cost of \$63,000. JEFF MELNYCHUK PHOTOS



With the rear seats folded, the hatch offers loads of cargo space.



The S has been at the top of the TT food chain since the raunchy, 360-horsepower RS exited the picture. But the TT-S is just as much fun.



The TT has a back seat, but it's not really designed for two humans.

High-lows

WOWS: A yellow sports car in the dead of winter has the effect of a defibrillator. Baseball stitching for the seats never gets old. Shockingly little tire gap with the fenders. Its mid-range power reminds us of the TT-RS. Perfect winter transport while Corvettes sleep.

HMMS: Back seat? Funny. No matter how you slice it, \$63,000 is a lot o' cash for 265 hp and all-wheel drive. Silver exterior accents? Uh, no, subtle is better.

Quoted

"Yeah, a Corvette has more power for less money, and probably looks better. But you're not going to see one of those out in a blizzard."

dreadfully low. It's not a summer-only car, nor should it be for a cost of \$63,000, plus tax.

Yeah, a Corvette has more power for less money, and it's a newer design and probably looks better.

But you're not going to see one of those out in a blizzard, are you? At least not right-side up. That means you'll need another vehicle for the winter, and some place to store the Corvette.

The TT-S needs no such winter pinch-hitter, just the right winter tires.

However, something like an Audi S4 sedan or S5 coupe would provide more room. The TT has a back seat, but it's probably better-suited for surprise store purchases than the seating of two humans.

The great part is how much cargo room there is in the hatch when the rear seat is folded flat. It's a narrow

space, but it's long. Good for road trips or bringing home 2x4s. Really.

Unfortunately, even with winter tires, the TT-S is in a constant state of traction-control intervention on anything but dry roads, partly because the 265-horsepower, four-cylinder engine — which is

exclusive to the TT-S — has plenty of mid-range turbocharged torque to break the tires free.

The paddle-shift transmission feels like it's tied to my thoughts rather than my fingers and, at each gear change when the engine revs drop, there's a cute little "blaaaaap" farting sound coming out the quad tailpipes.

I laugh. Often.

The S is at the top of the TT food chain, since the satisfactorily raunchy 360-horsepower RS is out of the picture. I have to say the TT-S is just as

much fun, but the difference in low-speed power between the two is night and day.

Until the TT-S starts making some revs, the pedal is almost dead. It just won't launch hard. Base TT models have 211 horsepower, but the same peak torque as the TT-S.

There's a new TT coming for 2016 with more power and likely a higher price. Get yours with winter tires. It's fun.

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GT model shown

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*Based on total Automobile Journalists of Canada (AJAC) Category wins (various) up to the 2014 model year. ^tTo learn more about the Mazda Unlimited Warranty, go to mazdaunlimited.ca. [#]Finance Pricing for new 2015 Mazda3 GX (D4XK65AA00) is \$17,190 financed at 1.99% over 84 months equals 182 bi-weekly payments of \$97 with \$0 down payment, cost of borrowing is \$548 with a total obligation of \$17,738. As shown, Finance Pricing for new 2015 Mazda3 GT (D4TL65AA00) is \$27,290 financed at 1.99% over 84 months equals 182 bi-weekly payments of \$157 with \$0 down payment, cost of borrowing is \$882 with a total obligation of \$28,172. Offers include \$500 finance cash. Offers include freight, P.D.E. and fees. Offers exclude PST/GST/HST. [#]Offer available on retail leases of new 2015 Mazda3 GX (D4XK65AA00) with a lease APR of 2.99% and 130 bi-weekly payments of \$88 for 60 months, the total lease obligation is \$11,505, including down payment of \$0. As shown, Offered Pricing for new 2015 Mazda3 GT (D4TL65AA00) with a lease APR of 2.99% and 130 bi-weekly payments of \$150 for 60 months, the total lease obligation is \$19,542, including down payment of \$0. Offers include \$500 lease cash. Lease payments include freight and P.D.E. of \$1,695. 20,000 km per year mileage allowance applies; if exceeded, additional 8¢ per km applies. Offers exclude PST/GST/HST. Offered leasing available to retail customers only. Licence, insurance, dealer administration and other fees, taxes and down payment (where applicable) are extra and may be required at the time of purchase. Dealer may sell/lease for less. Dealer order/trade may be necessary on certain vehicles. Offers valid February 3 - March 2, 2015, while supplies last. Lease and finance on approved credit for qualified customers only. Offers subject to change without notice. Visit mazda.ca or see your dealer for complete details.



The 2016 Volt is an EV. CONTRIBUTED

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Marketing EVs in the face of cheap gas

Green. Despite lower prices at the pumps, automakers are banking on eco-friendly models



AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

"Show 'em what you got" is poor English.

But it's a decent way to describe the approach automakers must take during auto-show season, which we're in the thick of right at the moment.

The Detroit and Montreal shows kicked off the 2015 season in mid-January, and the doors are about to swing open for the vehicular spectacles in Chicago and Toronto, with the latter event beginning this coming weekend.

At Detroit, Chevrolet showed us it "got" electric car goodies.

It trotted out both the second-generation and all-new Chevrolet Volt, and the newly conceived Bolt.

Unlike Volt, Bolt doesn't have a gasoline engine to constantly recharge its electric motor. The Bolt is a pure EV (electric vehicle).

Both vehicles will be front and centre at GM's stand in Toronto, and their timing is as much a talking point as their respective technologies, arriving as they are in the midst of the lowest gas price stretch we've had since 2010-ish.

The new 2016 Volt officially goes on sale some time in the latter half of this year.

The Bolt hasn't even been given the green light for production — though everyone is expecting GM to do so at the Chicago show.

Big and nasty gas prices could have given both these nameplates a shot of marketing and awareness adrenalin.

But now they just wade into another swampish period where we wonder whether EVs are going to fly long-term or not.

Why pay extra for an EV and/or plug-in hybrid, when you might have even more trouble getting your investment back using electricity, the cheaper fuel?

And why should automakers keep plowing development money into EV programs when mainstream consumers are not ready to make the switch?

Well, according to Elon

Musk of Tesla fame, we should be figuring out other ways to get consumers to switch over, because current oil prices are not, in his words, "an adequate forcing function."

We need to make the switch, he opines, because EVs are the better way, and the cleaner way, and the way that will inevitably be the winning way, so why not make it happen now?

He is certainly trying. Musk recently opened up his patents to other automakers, and offered to let non-Tesla EVs use his planned private network of

Quoted

According to Elon Musk of Tesla fame, we need make the switch to electric vehicles because they are the better way, the cleaner way, and the way that will inevitably be the winning way. So why not make it happen now?

Mike Goetz

charging stations.

For his part, Carlos Ghosn, the top executive at both Nissan and Renault, and the auto industry's other big EV advocate, feels that EVs are the only way to achieve strict and necessary emission mandates, and warns that gas prices have the propensity to rise and fluctuate over time.

It's interesting that both these competitors are calling on their industry counterparts to build more EVs, so both infrastructure developments and EV acceptance can happen faster.

While GM's pending introduction of the Bolt might be a direct competitor to Tesla's smaller and upcoming Model 3, Musk didn't see it all as a threat.

In fact, he called it "progress."

For EV enthusiasts

- The latest electric cars will be on display at the Canadian International Auto Show runs from Feb. 13 to 22 in Toronto

World Car of the Year finalists announced

Awards. BMW 2-Series Active Tourer, Ford Mustang, Jeep Renegade and more in the running

The shortlist for one of the auto world's most coveted awards has been revealed ahead of the awards ceremony in New York this April.

The 10 finalists that will compete for the title of 2015 World Car of the Year

are the BMW 2 Series Active Tourer, the Citroën C4 Cactus, the Ford Mustang, the Hyundai Genesis, the Jeep Renegade, the Mazda2, the Mercedes-Benz C-Class, the MINI 5 door / MINI 4 door, the Nissan Qashqai, and the Volkswagen Passat.

The winner will be chosen by a jury of 75 international motoring journalists who have put each of the cars through their paces and the prize awarded on Thursday, April 2 at the New York International

Auto Show.

For all categories except the Green Car award, the jury will simply vote for the winner via a secret ballot, whereas the winning green car will be selected in part by a panel of green technology experts who have set the final shortlist of candidates based on their environmentally friendly credentials.

The final five cars, which this year includes the BMW i8, Hyundai ix35 / Tucson Fuel Cell, Kia Soul EV, Volvo

XC90 T8 Twin Engine, and the Volkswagen Golf GTE, will be tested and reviewed by the main panel of judges and a winner selected.

As well as the overall winner, prizes will also be given in a number of other categories including Luxury Car of the Year, Performance Car of the Year and Green Car of the Year.

BMW must be hopeful of its chances at this year's ceremony as it has models nominated in every category. **AFP**



BMW 2-Series Active Tourer. CONTRIBUTED

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Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

♈ Aries

March 21 - April 20

Be more assertive about your opinions today, especially if you've kept your thoughts to yourself for a while. You don't have to shout but let others know what you believe.

♉ Taurus

April 21 - May 21

Others will go out of their way to keep you quiet today, because the truth is not what they want to hear. If you find yourself at odds with powerful people, don't back down.

♊ Gemini

May 22 - June 21

Be careful who you trust on the work front today because someone you think is a friend could be plotting to undermine your position.

♋ Cancer

June 22 - July 23

Now that Mercury, planet of the mind, is moving in your favour again you won't have much trouble working out what needs to be done. Get your financial affairs in order.

♌ Leo

July 24 - Aug. 23

You will hear something to your advantage over the next 24 hours. Don't be reluctant to believe it just because the source of the information has not always been reliable.

♍ Virgo

Aug. 24 - Sept. 23

Partnerships and relationships will be under important stars as the month moves on, so clear the decks for action now.

♎ Libra

Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

Your latest project will be a success, despite recent setbacks. Don't worry that you have not made as much progress as you would have liked. There is still plenty of time to get it right.

♏ Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

You should find it easier now to get along with people who, for one reason or another, have been a bit stand-offish of late.

♐ Sagittarius

Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

If you get the chance to do a good deed for a friend over the next two or three days don't wait to be asked, just wade in and put things right for them.

♑ Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

Something that has been tormenting you these past few weeks will no longer seem such a problem after today. You will also be delighted to discover that you are not as poor financially as you thought.

♒ Aquarius

Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

Something that has gone wrong on several occasions over the past two or three weeks will start going right again as of today, which will lead to an improved outlook.

♓ Pisces

Feb. 20 - March 20

You will learn something you find hard to believe today. It has been in plain sight for a while, which begs the question: How did you manage to miss it?

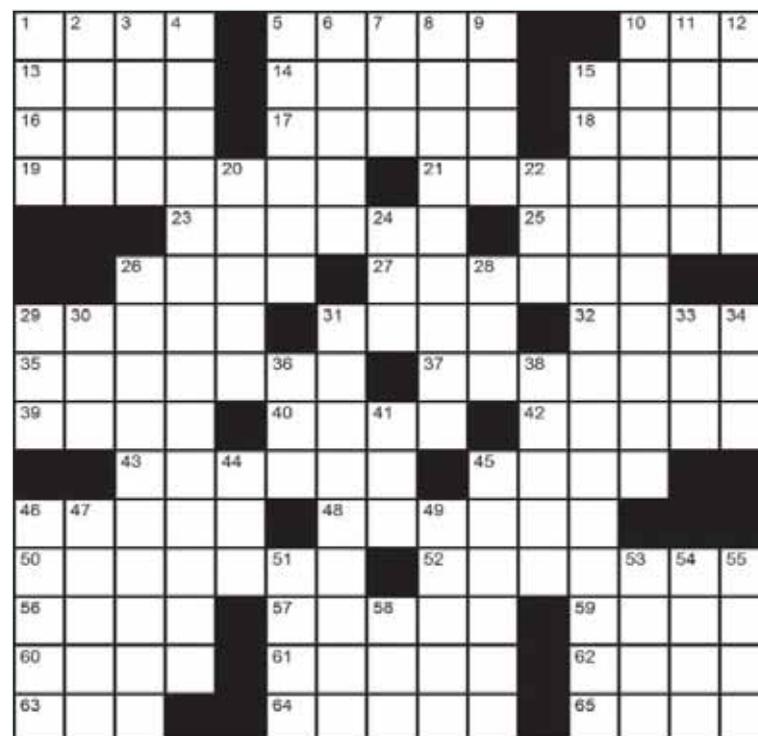
Crossword: Canada Across and Down by Kelly Ann Buchanan

Across

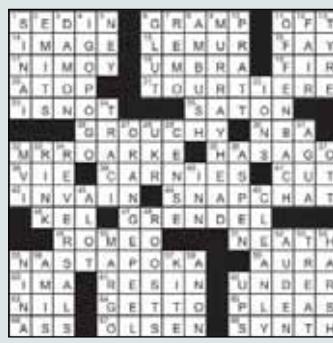
1. Fort ___ Hill (Historic coastal artillery base in Colwood on Vancouver Island)
5. Economy class
10. Football positions, briefly
13. Helm position
14. 'Straight'-meaning prefix
15. Mouse-like critter
16. Type size
17. Bargain
18. Garfield's sidekick
19. 1982 Dustin Hoffman movie
21. Discount shoe store
23. 1965 to 1971 sitcom, "___ Heroes"
25. At ___ (With consequences)
26. Scientology founder, ___ Hubbard
27. Violinist Mr. Perlman
29. Stream
31. Kimono accessories
32. Robert De Who?
35. April Wine's "Just ___ You and Me"
37. Gambling spots
39. Betty ___ (Vintage cartoon/comic)
40. Hide-and-go-___
42. The Cremation of Sam ___ (Yukon-set poem by Robert Service)
43. Australian airline
45. Jiffs
46. "It's ___ thing."

Down

1. Bewitched
2. Oil: Italian
3. Design style, with Art
4. It comes 'two minutes too late' in Alanis Morissette's "Ironic": 3 wds.
5. Jointly endorse on
6. "Coffee ___ ?" (Restaurant query)
7. Chowed chowder
8. Dried lips balm
9. Greeting in Granada!
10. Blackie and the ___ (Hamilton band)
11. Walking on air



Yesterday's Crossword



Online

See today's answers at
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Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

Yesterday's Sudoku

1	7	3	9	6	5	2	4	8
9	4	8	7	2	1	5	3	6
6	5	2	8	3	4	9	7	1
3	6	4	2	7	9	1	8	5
2	8	7	1	5	3	6	9	4
5	1	9	6	4	8	3	2	7
4	3	6	5	8	2	7	1	9
7	2	1	4	9	6	8	5	3
8	9	5	3	1	7	4	6	2

4			7	6
8	6	4		3
2	7			8
		4	8	
9	7	6	4	
2		1	3	
4			8	1
5		3	2	4
	1	5	6	

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